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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME NINTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero, de Orat. lib. ii.

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M,DCC,XCIII.

GR III
BRITISH MUSEUM

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	Carried over,	28590	30878	3744	4156	

* This ſeems to be exaggerated, as Mr Keith ſays the number in 1750 was only 1302.

† This, for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr Gillies, ſeems to be exaggerated.

‡ Mr Maxwell does not aſcertain the preciſe number; but as he mentions that the town of Stewartown "has increaſed ſome hundreds, ſince he was ſettled," (which was in 1758) the population in 1793 is probably rather above than below 3000.

No.	Name.	Population in 1755.	in 1791-3.	Increaſe.	Dec.	Page
	Brought over,	28590	30878	3744	1456	
25	Avendale or Strathaven, -	3551	3343	——	208	382
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36	Dunlop, -	796	779	——	17	533
37	Grange, -	1797	1572	——	225	550
38	Crieff, -	1414	2640	1226	——	583
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	Totals,	55931	59521	7029	3439	
			55931	3439		
	Increaſe in 1791-3,		3590	3590		

* In the population table of Inverneſs, 2597 are denominated married *perſons*, probably inſtead of married *couples*; in which laſt caſe, the number is 5194; and which makes the whole population 10,527, in place of 7930. This appears credible from the gradual increaſe of baptiſms ſince the year 1750, when according to Dr Webſter's report, the population amounted to 9730. In that year, the number of baptiſms was only 165; in 1790, it was 254.

ERRATA.

Page 29, line 15, for corn, read corn and rock.

—— 271, —— 6, for a kind independent, read a kind of independent.

—— 276, —— 31, for maxim, read maxims.

—— 294, —— 19, for principles, read principle.

ERRATA.

Page 29, line 15, *for* corn, *read* corn and roots.

—— 175, — 6, *for* a kind independent, *read* a kind of independent.

—— 223, — 3, *for* antiquarian, *read* antiquary.

—— 392, — 19, *for* turnipike, *read* turnpike.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART IX.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF RUTHERGLEN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID URE, A. M.

Extent, Surface, &c.

THE parish of Rutherglen extends, on the south bank of the river Clyde, about 3 miles in length, and about $1\frac{1}{3}$ in breadth. It contains some of the most fertile and beautiful plains, that are to be met with in the strath of Clyde. These plains comprehend the estates of Shawfield, Farme, Hamilton-farm and Rosebank. They are partly secured against inundations from the river, by artificial banks, extending in length no less than 3700 yards:

Their tops are 18 inches higher than the height of the flood in 1782, the greateſt ever known in Clyde. It roſe about 18½ feet above low water. The riſe of the tide in the river terminates at Rutherglen.

Agriculture, &c.—The whole pariſh is arable, and is moſtly incloſed, chiefly with thorn hedges, in ſingle rows. The ſoil, being in ſome places a fine loam, and in others a rich mould, produces, by the concurring aſſiſtance of a climate generally mild and warm, fertile crops of oats, wheat, barley, peas, beans, potatoes and graſſes. For this and ſome other reaſons, improvements in agriculture are, in this place, making conſiderable progreſs. There are 3 kinds of ploughs uſed in the pariſh; the Scotch, the chain, and the Rutherglen plough. The laſt was, for the firſt time, made here about 50 years ago; and conſequently, according to Lord Kames's account, muſt have been among the firſt improved ploughs in Scotland. The plan after which it was conſtructed, was propoſed by a Lady Stewart, grandmother to the preſent Earl of Buchan: She came from Goodtrees to the Farme, where ſhe lived ſeveral years, and was uncommonly active in promoting agricultural improvements. It is nearly as light as the chain-plough, and anſwers well in a free ſoil; it has long ago found its way into all the pariſhes in the neighbourhood. The moſt part of the land is in tillage, for which reaſon there are few cattle in the pariſh. The number of cows is no more than 207; about 100 of that number belong to the inhabitants of the borough, and are moſtly paſtured on a ſmall common, adjoining to the town. Of horſes there are 110; but the greateſt part of them belong to the coal-work and to carters. The valued rent of the pariſh, which belongs to 139 heritors, of whom

41 are non-reſidents, is L. 2100 Scots: The real rent may, at an average, be rated at L. 2 Sterling the acre.

Borough.—The capital of the pariſh, and from which it derives its name, is the ancient borough of Rutherglen; ſituated 2½ miles to the S. E. of Glaſgow. This town, which is ſaid to have been at firſt built by Reuther, one of the Kings of Scotland, was erected into a royal borough by King David I. about the year 1126. Its privileges and immunities, as appears from charters yet extant, were very great. Theſe, however, were gradually diminiſhed, as Glaſgow and the neighbouring towns roſe into conſequence. It is, ſince the Union, inrolled with Glaſgow, Renfrew and Dunbarton; and in conjunction with them, ſends a member to the Britiſh Parliament. No borough in Britain enjoys a more free and unembarraſſed election of magiſtrates and council.

Fairs.—The market-day is not now frequented; but 6 fairs are annually held in the town, and are famous for the beſt draught-horſes in Europe. It is ſaid, that more than a century ago, one of the anceſtors of the preſent Duke of Hamilton, brought with him to Scotland 6 coach-horſes, originally from Flanders, and ſent them to Strathaven, the caſtle of which was at that time habitable: The horſes were all ſtallions, of a black colour, and remarkably handſome. The farmers in the neighbourhood readily embracing the favourable opportunity, made this foreign breed croſs with the common Scotch kind; and thereby procured a breed ſuperior to either. From this, a ſtrong and hardy race of horſes was ſoon ſpread over the country; but in many places, owing to neglect, was left to degenerate. By want of proper attention, we often let ſlip the

moſt

moſt favourable opportunities of improvement, and ſuffer unmanly indolence to deprive us of many bleſſings we might otherwiſe enjoy. A high degree of credit, however, is due to the farmers in the upper part of the county, for their unremitting endeavours to improve this excellent breed. They pay ſtrict attention to every circumſtance reſpecting the colour; the ſoftneſs and hardneſs of the hair; length of the body, breaſt and ſhoulders of their breeders. No inducement whatever, can lead them to encourage the breed of a horſe, that is not poſſeſſed of the beſt qualities. Providence commonly favours the attentive and the diligent. Their laudable attempts have proved to be ſucceſsful, and Britain is now reaping the merited fruits of their well directed care. Every farm almoſt, through the extent of ſeveral pariſhes, ſupports 6, or at leaſt 4 mares; the half of which are allowed annually to foal. The colts are moſtly ſold at the fairs of Lanark and Carnwath, and bring to the owners from L. 5 to L. 20 each. They are generally purchaſed by farmers from the counties of Renfrew and Ayr, where they are trained for the draught, till they are about 5 years old; they are then ſold at the fairs of Rutherglen from L. 25 to L. 40 each; from thence they are taken to the Lothians, England, &c. where they excel in the plough, the cart and the waggon.

Population.—The pariſh contains 286 dwelling-houſes, inhabited by 444 families, containing 1860 perſons; of whom 907 are males, 953 females, and 297 children under 6 years of age. The number of ſervants is 69, of whom 21 only are males. The increaſe, ſince the year 1755, if the return (988) made to Dr Webſter was accurate, is 872. The following is a liſt of the number of baptiſms,

baptiſms, in the following periods, as they ſtand in the ſeſſion records:

Years.	*Births.*	*Years.*	*Males.*	*Fem.*	*Total.*
1699	11	1781	29	38	67
1700	10	1782	30	37	67
1701	11	1783	20	24	44
1702	18	1784	33	24	57
1703	21	1785	36	34	70
1704	16	1786	27	34	61
1705	18	1787	42	35	77
1706	27	1788	35	37	72
1707	25	1789	33	37	70
1708	26	1790	52	32	84
1709	27	1791	40	31	71

The increaſed population muſt be owing to the rapid progreſs of manufactures in this part of the country.

Wages.—Owing to this alſo, ſervants are ſcarce, and their wages high. A man-ſervant receives, beſides bed, board and waſhing, L. 5 the half year; and a woman-ſervant from 40 s. to 50 s. A labourer, when hired by the year, receives 1 s. every day; when not hired by the year, he has from 15 d. to 18 d. a-day. Artificers, as maſons and wrights, get 2 s. for their day's wages. But the practice of undertaking by the piece, almoſt univerſally prevails.

Character of the Inhabitants.—The preſent inhabitants are active and induſtrious, and under their good management, the peace of ſociety is preſerved. They are conſiderable adepts in borough politics. This, however, does not, in general, obſtruct an induſtrious application to their ſeveral employments. But their tranquillity meets, at times, with ſhort interruptions: A competition for their influence

influence, in a vote for a member of Parliament, ſometimes convulſes the community; enervates the ſinews of induſtry; and brings ruin on ſome few individuals. On theſe occaſions, one would be ready to think, that liberty was turned into licentiouſneſs, and that the privileges of royal boroughs were curſes, inſtead of bleſſings, to the perſons poſſeſſed of them. But where is the conſtitution that is free from defects? or where the people that may not in ſome inſtances go wrong? It may, however, be obſerved, that the inhabitants are ſo far from being bad members of ſociety, that none of them have, in the memory of man, committed any crime, for which they were liable to public puniſhment. They are ſtrongly attached to the Eſtabliſhed Church; there being not above 8 or 10 families belonging to ſectaries.

Trades, Manufactures, &c.—How the inhabitants are employed, will appear from the following liſt of mechanics and labourers within the pariſh: The number of individuals employed in each occupation is annexed:

Bakers, —	2	Hoſiers, — —	8
Barbers, — —	1	Labourers, —	55
Brewers, —	2	Millers, — —	2
Carters, — —	18	Shoemakers, —	15
Coal-hewers, —	60	Smiths, —	37
Coopers, — —	3	Surgeons, —	1
Farmers, —	26	Tailors, — —	11
Flax-dreſſers, —	1	Watchmakers, —	1
Fleſhers, —	3	Weavers, —	254
Gardeners, —	4	Wrights, and	
Hatmakers, —	10	Maſons, —	34

Of

Of the weavers, 10 only continue at cuſtomary work; the reſt are employed in the muſlin branch. Moſt of the maſons profeſs the wright buſineſs. About three fourths of the ſmiths are nailers, and work to employers in Glaſgow. Mr Robert Bryce hath diſtinguiſhed himſelf for making edge-tools, eſpecially augers and ſcrews, both black and poliſhed. He ſells the black from 3 s. 6 d. to L. 1, 5 s. the dozen, wholeſale; and the poliſhed, from 13 s. to L. 2 : 9 : 6 the dozen. His carpenters and coopers axes and adzes, are ſold from 5 d. to 8 d. the lb. All his tools, on account of their excellent workmanſhip, and extremely good temper, are preferred, in Glaſgow and Greenock, to any from England. His demands are always greater than he can execute. For grinding his tools, he prefers the ſtones from Hamilton-hill, in the neighbourhood of Glaſgow, to Newcaſtle grindſtones. The former are compoſed of a ſmaller grit than the latter, but take down remarkably faſt; they wear equally round, becauſe no part of them is harder than another; and they are not intermixed with nodules and ſtreaks of the martial-pyrites, which are extremely hurtful to edge-tools, and frequently render grindſtones totally uſeleſs.—Mr Bryce hath alſo acquired a peculiar ſkill in the dextrous management of *bees*. He can, without killing the queen-bee, unite different ſwarms, or parts of ſwarms, and make them keep together in harmony: His apiary is ſometimes ſtocked with 42 hives.—There are two printfields in the pariſh, known by the names of Rutherglen and Shawfield-bank printfields. The former is carried on by Mr Cummin and Company, and the latter by Mr Dalgleiſh; they employ about 200 perſons. All the women in the pariſh find abundance of ſuitable employment. Every 4 looms give work to at leaſt one woman, who winds the yarn for them.

There

There are no fewer than 22 tambouring machines in the town; 4 young girls commonly work at each; and gain, by their united labour, about 2 s. the day.

Minerals.—The coal-works carried on at Stonelaw, by Major John Spens, are of long ſtanding. There is no account when coals were at firſt wrought in this place. But from the number of old waſtes, the period muſt be very remote. At preſent, about 126 perſons are employed in the works. The water is raiſed by a ſteam-engine, which, about the year 1776, was erected by Gabriel Grey, Eſq; of Scotſtown. The coals turned out are of different qualities, but all of them are very good. They are ſold on the hill at 10 d. the hutch, weighing 400 lb. but it commonly exceeds that weight; carriage to Glaſgow is 4 d. ſo that a cart load of three hutches, weighing about 13 cwt. is laid down in the ſtreet for 3 s. 6 d. But two wheeled waggons, containing 6 hutches, are commonly uſed. Some of them that lately were occaſionally weighed, contained no leſs than 33 cwt. of ſoft coal; which, however, is ſpecifically heavier than hard coal. The empty waggon generally weighs about $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The whole, amounting to 41 cwt. is drawn by a ſingle horſe, which goes to Glaſgow three times a day. Glaſgow is diſtant from Stonelaw $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Such heavy draughts, drawn by one horſe, even for a greater length of road, is not unfrequent in this country. The waggon is generally 2 feet in depth; $3\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth; and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in length; the wheels are $4\frac{1}{2}$ in height; the horſes employed are of the Lanarkſhire breed. Their ſuperior excellency, after the above mentioned exertion of their ſtrength, to which they are daily accuſtomed, need not be called in queſtion. A conſiderable quantity of iron ſtone is turned out along with the

the coal at Stonelaw. It ſells at 5 s. 6 d. the ton on the hill; and is delivered at Clyde iron-work for 6 s. 6 d. There are two excellent free-ſtone quarries in the pariſh, which have been wrought for ſome hundred years paſt. The ſtones find ready ſale in Glaſgow and its neighbourhood.

Public houſes.—Rutherglen is by no means deſtitute of grocery ſhops and public houſes. Of the latter there are no fewer than 26 within the town. Theſe, although more than ſufficient for ordinary demands, are not able to accommodate ſtrangers that frequent the fairs. To ſupply the deficiency, every inhabitant claims a right, eſtabliſhed by immemorial practice, of ſelling ale and whiſky, licence free, during the time of the fairs. This cuſtom, which is hurtful neither to the revenues of Government, nor intereſt of the community, is profitable to ſome induſtrious families who inhabit capacious houſes.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church is a ſmall but very ancient ſtructure. There is no account when it was built. The conſtruction of the pillars and arches, and the ornaments on the capitals, ſeem to place its date at a more remote diſtance, than the time when the churches, ornamented with high and cluſtered pillars, ſharp pointed arches, large windows, &c. were built.—The ſtipend, including the allowance for communion-elements, is 147 bolls, 14¾ pecks of victual; of which, 55 bolls are of oats; 34 of barley; and the reſt of oat meal. It is, however, moſtly paid in money, according to the market price of the victual. The glebe contains 4[1] acres, part of which is occupied by the manſe and offices. The Magiſtrates and Council, the heritors reſiding within the borough,

and thirteen pound land thereof; the members of the kirk-ſeſſion, and the tenants of Shawfield, have jointly the right of preſentation.—The public ſchool is generally well frequented. The ſalary is L. 10 Sterling yearly. The ſtated wages are 2 s. the quarter for Engliſh; and 2 s. 6 d. for writing, arithmetic and Latin. There are commonly one or two private ſchools in the town.—The number of poor in the pariſh, conſidering its population, is not great. There are only 26 on the poor funds: theſe are to the whole inhabitants nearly in proportion, as 1 is to 72. They are moſtly aged and infirm women. Each receives from 2 s. to 5 s. a-month. There are beſides a few indigent families who are occaſionally aſſiſted, as the kirk-ſeſſion, to whoſe care the overſight of the poor is intruſted, ſees proper. The funds for anſwering the above purpoſes, are raiſed from the weekly collections at the church door on ſabbaths; from proclamations of marriage, and the annual intereſt of a ſmall ſum, accumulated chiefly by pious donations. Theſe different ſources, for there is no *poor-tax* in the pariſh, procured to the ſeſſion, from February 1790 to February 1791, the ſum of L. 52 : 13 : 3½. The diſburſements, during the ſame period, were L. 46, 16 s. Balance added to the ſtock, L. 5 : 17 : 3½. One or two of the poor are allowed to beg within the bounds of the pariſh but no where elſe.

Roads and Mill.—There is no part in the country where better roads are to be found. The great turnpike road leading from Glaſgow to London, by way of Kilbride, Muirkirk, Dumfries, &c. goes through the town. On this road is a toll-bar, the only one in the pariſh. The chief line of communication to Glaſgow is by Rutherglen bridge, which was, in 1775, thrown over Clyde. It is

not

not burdened by any pontage, being built by a free ſubſcription, to which the borough contributed nearly L. 1000 Sterling.—The only mill in the pariſh is the town's mill, conſtructed for grinding oats, barley and peas. To it are aſtricted all the borough lands, at the thirlage of the 40th part of the *grana creſcentia*, ſeed and horſe corn excepted. The miller is entitled to half a peck for bannock-meal, out of every 6 firlots, grinded at the mill; and the multerer, or millar's ſervant, has additional what is equal to the half of the bannock-meal for his fee.

Copies of the charters belonging to the borough; deſcriptions and drawings of the pillars in the church; of the ſpoils of ſepulchral *tumuli;* of vegetable impreſſions found in the earth; of baſaltic columns, and of ſeveral other ſubjects of antiquity and natural hiſtory, belonging to the pariſh, are given in Mr Ure's hiſtory of Rutherglen and Eaſt Kilbride, from which the above account is abſtracted.

NUM-

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF BUCHANAN,

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF DUNBARTON.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID MACGIBBON.

Name, Extent, &c.

BUCHANAN was formerly called *Inchcailloch*, the name of an iſland in Lochlomond, where the church was till the year 1621, when a conſiderable part of the pariſh of Luſs, at that time on this ſide of the loch, was annexed to the pariſh of Inchcailloch. Some years after the annexation, the walls of the church in Inchcailloch failing, and the people likewiſe not finding it convenient every ſabbath, eſpecially in ſtormy weather, to be croſſing over to the iſland, worſhip was performed in a church near the houſe of Buchanan, which was originally a Chapel of Eaſe belonging to the pariſh of Luſs. From this chapel, which was called the church or chapel of Buchanan, the whole united

united parish came by degrees to be called the parish of Buchanan. Inchcailloch signifies "the island of the Old "Women;" so called, because in former times there was a nunnery there. The parish of Buchanan has been reckoned 18 computed miles long, and 6 broad. The cultivated part of the south end lies east and west between the moor of Buchanan and the river Endric. A long tract lies along the north side of Lochlomond to the upper end of the parish, near which there are two glens crossing the parish from east to west, Glendow and Glenarclet, both of which are inhabited.

Rivers.—The Forth has its source in the upper end of this parish. From several springs, and from rains in these high grounds frequently falling, there is collected a small burn or rivulet, which runs down Glenguoi into Glendow, and by the addition of several large burns in that glen it is considerably increased: At the lower end of the glen it is called the water of Dow, and below that the water of Duchray, (as it passes by the place of Duchray), and not till it passes by the church of Aberfoil is it called the Forth. This river takes its course through Monteith by Stirling. The river Endric, which is the boundary of this parish in the south, has its source in the west end of Dundaff, or Fintry hills, and runs through the parishes of Fintry, Killcairn, and Drumen, till it reaches the parish of Buchanan, where it flows in beautiful curves through the fertile haughs (or flats) of Buchanan and Kilmaronock, and falls at last into Lochlomond. This river in the winter season, when the loch is full, covers a great part of the lower grounds on both sides of the parishes of Buchanan and Kilmaronock, and when the water lies dead and goes off gradually it enriches the ground; but the floods have often proved hurtful

in

in the ſpring after the ſeed was ſown, and oftener in harveſt, both before the corns were cut down and afterward, carrying ſome away and greatly damaging the reſt. In harveſt 1782, in a flood, the haughs of Endric, in this pariſh, were covered with water, and immediately after, there came ſnow and intenſe froſt, ſo that in ſome places people walked on the ice above the ſtanding corn.

Caves.—In Craigroſtan there are ſeveral caves in which lawleſs people uſed to ſkulk and hide themſelves; thoſe are known by the names of the moſt remarkable perſons who uſed to frequent them. There is one commonly known by the name of King Robert's cave. What gave it that name was, that King Robert Bruce, after his defeat at Dalrec, in the weſt end of Strathfillan, paſſed that day, with very few with him, down the ſtrath, croſſed the water of Falloch, and came down the north ſide of Lochlomond to Craigroſtan. Night coming on, when he arrived at this cave, he ſlept there; next day he came to the laird of Buchanan, who conducted him to the Earl of Lenox, by whom he was preſerved for ſome time, till he got to a place of ſafety. The report is, that the night in which King Robert ſlept in the cave, he was ſurrounded with goats that uſed to lie there in the night, and that when he aroſe in the morning, and found himſelf ſo comfortable, he was ſo well pleaſed with the goats as his bed-fellows, that, when he came to be king, he made a law that all goats ſhould be graſs-mail (or graſs-rent) free.

Hills.—The Grampian hills run through this pariſh from S. W. to N. E. and divide the lower from the higher grounds. There is one pretty high hill in the midſt of theſe called the Conic hill: But the higheſt hill, in this part

part of the country, is in the upper end of the pariſh, called Benlomond, which is about 1080 yards above ſea level. The aſcent to the top of this hill directly weſt is ſteep, but from the ſouth it is more gradual, till near the top, and then it is ſomewhat ſteeper. From the top of this hill there is, in a clear day, a very extenſive view to the eaſt as far as Edinburgh, to the ſouth as far as Ayr, with the frith of Clyde, and the iſlands in it, Arran, Bute, &c. as alſo to the weſt ſea and the iſlands of Iſlay, Jura, &c.

Lochs or Lakes.—Though Lochlomond cannot be ſaid to be in any one pariſh, yet as the pariſh of Buchanan extends 14 or 15 miles up the ſide of the loch, and ſeveral of the inhabited iſlands make a part of it, the greateſt ſhare of the loch may be ſaid to fall to the pariſh of Buchanan. This beautiful lake, lying from S. to N. has always been reckoned 24 computed or 36 meaſured miles in length. The breadth towards the ſouth end is from 8 to 10 miles; towards the north end it is not near ſo broad. The north end is conſiderably deeper than towards the ſouth end; the depth at the foot of Benlomond is about 120 fathoms; in the ſouth end it is about 20, and in many places not above 14. All above Rowerdennan the loch never freezes, however intenſe the froſt be; but what is ſouth of Rowerdennen frezes, ſo that men, and even horſes with their loads, have travelled upon the ice, when covered with ſnow. As there are ſeveral rivers which pour a great quantity of water into the loch, and as there is but one way by which it empties itſelf into the ſea, the loch, in rainy ſeaſons, riſes to a conſiderable height, ſo that from it loweſt ebb it has been known to riſe upwards of 5 feet. In this loch they reckon about 30 iſlands, but there are only 13 or 14 that can be ſaid to be of any value, the reſt being very ſmall,

and

and ſome of them but the points of bare rocks. The moſt valuable iſlands are divided between the families of Montroſe and Luſs; 4 of them, belonging to the Duke of Montroſe, are in the pariſh of Buchanan; 3 of theſe, namely, Inchailloch, already mentioned, Inchfael, which ſignifies "the "Long Iſland," and Incheruin, "the Round Iſland," have a tenant in each of them with arable and paſture ground; but by far the largeſt and the beſt of all the iſlands, and which likewiſe belongs to the family of Montroſe, is Inchmurin; in this iſland the Duke of Montroſe keeps his deer, and a foreſter to take care of them. This iſland, it is ſaid, belongs to no pariſh, but the people in it get church privileges, when they apply for them, at Buchanan. In the ſouth end of this iſland, the ancient family of Lenox had a caſtle, but it is now in ruins. There are alſo three ſmall lakes or lochs within the pariſh, namely, Dulochan, Locharclet and Lochamnancairn. In Dulochan there are ſome pike, in Locharclet there are pike and large trout, in Lochlomond there are ſalmon-trout, eel, perch, flounder, pike, and a fiſh peculiar to itſelf, called pollac. This fiſh is of the ſize of a large herring, and at times is caught in great quantities on this ſide of the loch with draught nets; they are beſt in the months of July and Auguſt. Salmon was more plentiful laſt year on this ſide of the loch than for many years paſt, owing to the ſtakes and nets upon the mouth of the Leven to prevent the fiſh from coming up, being pulled out; and yet ſalmon ſold laſt year dearer than before, owing to the carriers attending more regularly than formerly, and carrying them off to Glaſgow, &c. Salmon, which uſed to be ſold at 2 d. and 3 d. the pound, ſells now at 5 d. and 6 d.

Woods.

Woods.—Near the houſe of Buchanan there is an old oak wood; great additions have been made to which within theſe 40 years paſt. The preſent Duke of Montroſe is planting a great deal of different kinds of trees in the bottom of Buchanan, which in proceſs of time, if properly ta en care of, muſt turn out greatly to the advantage of the family, as well as to the beauty of the place. In the iſland of Inchcailloch there is a large oak wood. From the Grampian hills to the north end of the pariſh, along the ſide of the loch, is one continued wood, conſiſting of ſome aſhes, alders, hazels, but moſtly oaks. Woods are of late become very valuable on the ſides of Lochlomond, as the timber and bark are eaſily tranſported by water to Glaſgow, Port-Glaſgow and Greenock, and ſometimes are carried to Ireland and the weſt of England.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—This country in general is rather wet, not however unhealthy. Fevers are rare, and generally brought from other places, eſpecially from the towns, and from the public works that are going on at no great diſtance from hence, as bleaching, printing cloth, and ſpinning cotton; the children or connections of people in this pariſh turning ſickly in thoſe places, are brought home, and ſometimes the neighbours are infected by them. In that way alſo the ſmall-pox was brought into this pariſh in winter laſt. The diſeaſe ſpreading faſt, about 30 of the young people in the neighbourhood where it was, took it; 10 of whom died. All the parents whoſe children had not taken it, (two or three excepted), as if it were with one conſent, inoculated their children at one and the ſame time; ſo that there are juſt now under inoculation in this pariſh 128. Several of whom I have ſeen; many of them appeared to be pretty eaſy; others had a good

deal of the pox, but are now in a fair way of recovery. Two only died.—What we reckon old people in this pariſh live till they are between 70 and 80 years; ſome reach 85 or 86; only 5 that I can remember, ſince I came to this pariſh, reached 90, 2 of whom died going 98. There is one living at preſent who is going 99; he is remarkably healthy, riſes every day by 7 or 8 in the morning, and if it is a good day, takes a ſhort walk before breakfaſt; he has no complaint of his ſight, hearing or memory, and his hand is as ſteady as when he was a young man; he was in arms in the year 1715 with his countrymen the Highlanders, and is the only man alive in this part of the country who was out at that time.

Agriculture, &c.—The ſoil is of different kinds. The haughs of Endric are deep, and very fertile for graſs or corn. The riſing grounds towards the moor of Buchanan, are partly gravel, partly moſs, and partly till, with rocks and ſtones, both above and below ground, in the way of the plough. Upon the ſide of Lochlomond above the paſs, the ground is drier than below, but rocky and ſtony. The crops are oats and barley. Some few peas are ſown, which do very well where the ground is limed, but they are in danger of ſuffering in harveſt in this rainy country. Some few have tried turnip; they would grow very well, but they require more attention in the ſeaſon that the people of this country are providing turf or peats, than they can well beſtow upon them. They all plant plenty of potatoes, and the common people feed at leaſt one half of the year upon them. Oats, if the ſeaſon anſwers, are ſown in the beginning of April, barley through the month of May, and ſometimes in June. There is little flax raiſed, and none but what is for private uſe. A greater quantity

of

of grain than was neceſſary for the maintenance of the inhabitants, was raiſed; but of late years a great part of the richer grounds being put under graſs, has conſiderably diminiſhed the produce in general. The generality of the tenants keep near a third more of cattle than they have paſture for; which, though they will not believe it, turns out more to their loſs than their profit. There are 5 entered ſtills in the pariſh, which do more than conſume all the barley that grows in it. The common Scots ploughs are generally uſed; but inſtead of being made by the farmers themſelves as formerly, they are now, for the moſt part, made by ſuch wrights as are moſt remarkable in the country for making them, ſo that they are not now ſo clumſy and heavy as uſual. But by far the greater part of this pariſh conſiſts of hill or moor ground, and is covered with rocks, moſs and heath. For 6 miles up the ſide of the loch, each farm has a ſhare of the moor which is contiguous to itſelf; but ſeveral miles of the north end of the pariſh have of late years been all put under ſheep-paſture. There are only 27 ploughs going in the pariſh this year.

Till of late there was rather a want of induſtry in this pariſh, owing to what the farmers alleged, the ſhortneſs of their tacks, which gave them no encouragement to improve, and the difficulty of getting manure: But a lime quarry being ſome years ago found out in the moor above the paſs, near a moſs where they get peats for burning the lime, the farmers in the neighbourhood make lime there every year, which they bring to their grounds. This has proved of conſiderable advantage to their farms. The farms below the paſs the Duke has incloſed and ſubdivided, partly by ditch and hedge, and partly by ſtone fences: By building the ſtone fences, the farmers who were employed in providing ſtones, had an opportunity of clearing their grounds of a great

great many ſtones, which they ſtood very much in need of. And ſome of them ſince in their wet grounds have been caſting drains and filling them with ſtones, by which their grounds receive a double advantage. The multures for ſome time paſt have been converted into money, ſo that there is little more given now than what is neceſſary for working the grain.

Population.—According to the return made to Dr Webſter, the numbers were 1699. The inhabitants have decreaſed conſiderably ſince ſome part of my predeceſſor's time. In one of his liſts, the number was between 1500 and 1600; according to the laſt liſt which I took of them, they were only 1111 ſouls, and the number is not increaſing. There is no regiſter of marriages kept; but the regiſter in order to the proclamation of banns is regularly kept; and by the ſame it appears, that the number of proclamations from the beginning of the year 1760 to the beginning of 1790, is 241; from 1760 to 1770, is 82; from 1770 to 1780, is 83; and from 1780 to 1790, is 76: The yearly average upon the whole, is 8. The numbers of births from 1760 to 1790, is 409; from 1760 to 1770, is 147; from 1770 to 1780, is 143; from 1780 to 1790, is 119. The yearly average is about 13.

There are no manufactures in this pariſh. There are in it 6 weavers, 3 ſhoemakers, 2 tailors, 1 ſmith, 2 boat-carpenters, 2 millers, no wrights nor maſons, except ſuch as work conſtantly to the Duke of Montroſe. All the ſervants in this pariſh are domeſtic or houſehold, except ſuch as work to the Duke, who have each of them who go under the denomination of his workmen, a houſe and garden, a cow's grazing-park, for their accommodation, with 4 acres of ground. The wages of labouring ſervants are daily

increaſing,

increaſing, owing greatly to the public works going on in the neighbourhood, the enlarging of farms, and the turning off of cottagers. Men ſervants get from L. 7 to L. 9 in the year, and ſome of them more. Women ſervants get L. 4, and ſome of them more. A man to work a day's work, or a *darger*, as they are called, is not eaſily had; and when got, he takes 10 d. a-day with his victuals. Tailors get 8 d. and victuals.—Some years ago there were ſeveral Roman Catholics, and a few of the Epiſcopal Communion; but there are none of theſe denominations now, ſo far as I know, at leaſt as common reſidenters.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The living conſiſts of 24 bolls oat-meal, together with L. 62 : 8 : 2, with manſe and glebe. The Duke of Montroſe is patron. The miniſter, it is ſaid, is titular. There are 6 heritors, 5 of whom have a ſingle farm each; the reſt of the pariſh belongs to the Duke, who is alſo ſuperior of the other five.—There are 2 ſchools, which for ſeveral years paſt have been regularly taught; the parochial ſchool, and a ſchool appointed by the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. The parochial ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 8 : 6 : 8, with a houſe; for every marriage he has 13 d.; for every baptiſm, 4 d.; for teaching to read Engliſh, 1 s. 6 d. the quarter, and for writing and arithmetic, 2 s. The charity ſchool is kept at Sallochy, about 6 miles above the church, for 3 years; and then at Inverſnaid, about 7 miles farther up the country, for other 3 years, alternately. The charity ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 10 as ſchoolmaſter and catechiſt; he has alſo quarter wages from ſuch as are able to pay, which I underſtand turn out to about L. 4; but he is obliged to teach the poor *gratis*.—The number of poor upon the liſt is about 40, ſometimes 1 or 2 more. I ſay upon the

the liſt, becauſe we only mark down the principal head of the family who receive charity, and are ſupplied by the country and the pariſh, though in ſome families there may be the huſband and the wife, and in others ſome ſmall children beſide the huſband and wife, or a widow with a ſmall family in ſtraitened circumſtances; ſo that if every individual were to be put in the liſt, the number would be pretty conſiderable. There is no proviſion made in this pariſh for the poor; they are obliged to beg from houſe to houſe through the year, and get their proportion of what collections are gathered on the Sabbath days, to buy cloaths and other neceſſaries; and when any of them come to be in ſickneſs, or infirm and unable to go about, they have to depend upon the charity of their neareſt neighbours, and what can be given them extraordinary of the poor's money. Several years ago the county of Stirling attempted to confine their poor within their reſpective pariſhes; and after ſeveral meetings about it, all the pariſhes, as far as I know, except Drumen and Buchanan, agreed to the plan; by which means the poor of the pariſhes who agreed to it were better ſupplied, and the people freed of a good deal of trouble in ſerving them at the door; and beſides, were not liable to get their goods ſtolen, as formerly, by vagrants who went about begging. The poor are every day becoming a heavier burden upon the inhabitants of this pariſh, occaſioned by the beſt growing farms in the lower end of the pariſh being put under graſs, and the ſmall farms in the head of the pariſh, many of them being united together and put under ſheep, and let out to people in other pariſhes who give nothing for the ſupport of the poor, but leave them a burden upon the reſidenters. There is about L. 280 belonging to the poor of the pariſh, moſt of which has been given in different donations by the family of Montroſe.

Manners and Morals.—The people are generally ſober. There are no villages in the pariſh, nor even what deſerves the name of a clachan at the church. There are only 3 licenſed public houſes: It is an advantage to the morals of the people that there are ſo few. The people are hoſpitable, and very charitably diſpoſed towards the poor. They live in peace and harmony among themſelves, and are very ready to oblige and aſſiſt one another when need requires. I cannot now recollect one law proceſs between the inhabitants before the ſheriff or commiſſary, ſince I came to the pariſh; any difference among them uſed to be made up at the barony court, and there have been very few differences even before the barony court for many years paſt. There has no murder been committed time immemorial; no perſons have been committed to priſon, or baniſhed for any crime, except one family who came to reſide here, finding it inconvenient to live any where elſe, and one individual who came from the ſouth, when purſued in his own country, took ſhelter here for a few days, and afterwards ſuffered at Edinburgh.

Advantages.—One great convenience which this pariſh has, is, that almoſt every farm has moſs in the moors belonging to itſelf or contiguous to it; ſo that in moderately dry ſummers the people may have plenty of good peats. But after all, conſidering the time that is ſpent in cutting the peats, ſetting and keeping them to the drought, and carrying them home, which is a great part of the ſummer's work, beſides the danger of loſing them all, or moſt of them in rainy ſeaſons, I leave it to my neighbours to judge whether it would not be better to caſt fewer peats, and ſerve themſelves partly in coals, eſpecially ſince they have now got a turnpike road to the coals. One great advan-

tage

tage which the lower end of this pariſh has received of late years, is a new line of road from Drumen to Rowerdennan, which (the ferry intervening) joins the great road from Dunbarton to Inverary on the ſouth ſide of Lochlomond. There is always a ferry-boat kept by the family of Montroſe at Rowerdennan, and another by the family of Arrochar on the oppoſite ſide. The ferrying place on this ſide has, of late years, been made pretty convenient for paſſengers; a quay has been built both for the ſafety of the boats, and for the conveniency of horſes getting into and out of the boats; as alſo a convenient public houſe. The line of road from Drumen to Rowerdennan was begun and formed by the ſtatute work; bridges were built on the burns, partly by the vacant ſtipend, partly by the bridge-money got from the county, and partly by the Duke's money. This road while carried on by the ſtatute work, went on very ſlowly; though begun above 30 years ago, it could not be ſaid to be finiſhed till laſt year; but now that it is finiſhed, it muſt greatly attract the attention of travellers, being for ſeveral miles up the ſide of the loch, highly beautiful and pictureſque; interſperſed with woods and beautiful fields of graſs and arable grounds; commanding at the ſame time an extenſive and delightful proſpect of Lochlomond, and of the principal iſlands in it, as alſo of the many fine ſeats around the loch.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the lower end of the pariſh is the houſe of Buchanan, the preſent ſeat of the family of Montroſe. This place for near 700 years belonged to Buchanan of that ilk, and was the ſeat of that ancient family, but has been now for ſome time in the poſſeſſion of the family of Montroſe.—At Inverſnaid in the upper end of the pariſh, there was, about 80 years ago, a fort built

built near mid-way between Lochlomond and Lochcatrine; the deſign of which was to guard the paſs between the two lochs, and prevent the cattle and goods of the people in the lower parts of the country being ſtolen and carried away northward, as alſo to be a check upon the country around it; the people thereabout being as ready as any others to take away their neighbour's goods. This fort was burnt in 1745, but was afterward repaired. There uſed to be a company of men ſtationed there ſome time ago; but, for ſeveral years paſt, it has been ſupplied with a few men from the caſtle of Dunbarton.

The people on the ſouth ſide of the Grampian Hills, ſpeak nothing but Engliſh; on the north ſide, ſuch as have been born and brought up there, ſpeak the Engliſh and Gaelic. Of late years, ſeveral tenants from the ſouth ſide, have removed to farms on the north ſide; theſe ſpeak Engliſh only. All the names of places within the pariſh are Gaelic: as, *Coldrach*, 'The Back of the Oaks;' *Blarvokie*, or 'Plain of the He-Goat;' *Stronmacnair*, 'The 'Point of the Hill, belonging to the Son of the Heir;' *Benlomond*, 'The bare green Hill.'

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF GOLSPY,

(COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM KEITH.

Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.

CULMALIE was the ancient name of this pariſh. Golſpy is probably derived from *goul ſpaut;*—*goul* ſignifying, 'a figure reſembling a branch of a tree,' and *ſpaut* 'a ſpeat.' Probably the burn of Golſpy ran in that form, and had often a ſpeat or flood; which is ſtill the caſe, altho' the form is much changed by reaſon of frequent inundations. The place perhaps got its name from the figure of the burn, and the circumſtance of its ſpeats.—This pariſh extends from Strathſteven, the N. E. end, to the Little Ferry, S. W. along the ſea, nearly in a ſtraight line; and meaſures about 8 miles. From the boat of the Little Ferry, it runs along that arm of the ſea from S. E. to N. W. for 3 miles, and thus forms nearly a right angle at the weſt end.

By

By the moſt direct road from one end to another, it is 10 meaſured miles in length, and from ſea to hill in the broadeſt part, about a mile and an half, and about a mile in the narroweſt part, excluſive of a good deal of barren hilly ground. There is a bank which runs along the burn of Golſpy due weſt from the ſea for 5 miles, where there are ſeveral inhabitants. It is flat for 10 miles in length from the coaſt, and from a mile to a mile and a half in breadth. The ſoil in general light, but of a good quality and fertile. In ſome parts it is deep, and mixed with clay, and very fertile. The S. W. end is ſandy; the N. E. end ſtony. No part is high, or having high rocks. The hills on the ſide facing the ſea are covered with ſhort black heath, and ſomewhat rocky. On the oppoſite ſide the heath is long, with a mixture of graſs, and the ground for moſt part moſſy. The air is dry and healthy. There are haddocks, whitings, cod, ſmall rock red cod, cuddies, ſkate, fine turbot and flounders, taken with lines. On the Little Ferry branch, muſſels, cockles, are gathered in plenty; flounders, trouts of various kinds, and a few ſalmon are taken with nets. All thoſe are in ſeaſon as in other places: The country around purchaſe all. Seals and porpoiſes are on the coaſt; ſometimes ſmall whales are ſeen near it; and there are inſtances of ſome being driven on ſhore. About 5 or 6 years ago, haddocks were a penny the ſcore; now they are a penny each. There is a good deal both of tangle and bell-weed on the coaſt, and uſed for manuring the lands to great advantage. About 30 ton of kelp is made every third year. The tides run from eaſt to weſt, and from weſt to eaſt. There is a pretty ſtrong current in the Little Ferry, but not remarkable.

Population.

Population.—About 100 years ago, the population is ſuppoſed not to have been above one half of what it is at preſent. In 1750 the number of inhabitants was 1302; at preſent they are 1700.

Males, - -	800	Farmers, (ten have above 10 acres), and their families, -	73
Females, -	900	Wrights, - -	5
Inhabitants in village of Golſpy, -	300	Maſons, -	2
In the country, -	1400	Weavers, -	10
Ann. aver. of births,	65	Tailors, - -	12
——— of deaths,	47	Tinker, -	1
——— of marriages,	20	Apprentices, -	10
Under 10 years of age,	500	Fiſhermen, -	20
Between 10 and 20,	450	Ferrymen, -	4
Between 20 and 50,	550	Houſehold ſervants,	12
Between 50 and 70,	175	Labouring ſervants,	252
Between 70 and 100,	25	Family of Nobility,	1
Heritors, (1 reſides conſtantly), -	2	Families of Gentry,	4
Phyſician, -	1		

The proportion between the annual births and the whole population is as 1 to 26; between marriages and it, as 1 to 85; between annual deaths and it, as 1 to 36. Each marriage, at an average, produces 7 children. The population would ſtill increaſe were manufactures eſtabliſhed. In Dr Webſter's report the number is 1790; but this ſeems to be exaggerated. Several go in ſpring to the South of Scotland, where they find better encouragement for labour, and moſt of them return in October or November following. None have been baniſhed ſince the year 1746, when one ſuffered that puniſhment.—There are 363 houſes, 5 in each houſe at an average; but

but there are 42 of thoſe houſes with only 1 inhabitant in each, and ſeveral houſes with but 2 inhabitants in each.

Produce, &c.—There is kail, potatoes, turnip, and every kind of garden roots; firs of different kinds, aſh, elm, alder, plane-tree, narrow-leaved ſervice, birch, hazle, alſo furze and broom. On the farm of Dunrobin, are at this time black cattle, of 3 and 4 years old, which would ſell at L. 10 a-head. They are not large, but remarkable well ſhaped, well haired, and hardy. The number of black cattle may be 1100; of ſheep 1000; of horſes 350. About 1000 arable acres, and a great many waſte. About 400 acres, or nearly ſo, of graſs or paſture lands. 850 acres may be employed in raiſing corn; in raiſing barley 300 acres; oats 180; peaſe 140; turnip 70; potatoes 160; and 150 acres are in ſown graſs, beſides 100 acres of paſture ground. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with proviſions; and can ſell 200 bolls of victual, and about 200 black cattle at an average. They ſow peaſe here in the beginning of March; oats about the middle; and bear from the 20th of April to the 20th of May: They reap bear in Auguſt and beginning of September, and oats and peaſe almoſt all in September. There are 500 or 600 acres, beſides hill ground common, all of little value, fit only for ſheep paſture. About 5 miles ſquare are planted with trees. The land rent of the pariſh may be L. 700. The beſt arable land is 1 boll; beſt paſture 5s. 6d. the acre; inferior 3 firlots arable; and 3s. 6d. paſture the acre. The farm of Dunrobin is 400 acres; Uppat 150; Craigtown 110; Kirktown, Abermoſs, and Morvick, about 50 acres each. Two farms, of 25 acres each, and 1, including arable and paſture grounds,

grounds, 55. No other farms in the pariſh exceed 12 acres, and few are ſo extenſive. Moſt of the largeſt farms are incloſed; the ſmaller ones are not. The people, in general, are convinced of the advantage of incloſures. In 1782 and 1783, they paid their rents nearly in victual, and had ſeed for their land. Tradeſmen and others, whom the farmers could not ſupply, got foreign victual that came to the country in ſpring and ſummer 1783; and all were well ſupplied.

Stipend and Poor.—The ſtipend, including the glebe, is about L. 76. The patronage is veſted in the Counteſs of Sutherland and Earl Gower. There are 100 on the poors liſt; and many objects of charity in the pariſh beſides. The annual collections are L. 6 at an average; beſides, there are L. 53 Sterling of a fund, being a preſent from the family of Sutherland, to the poor, which produces annually L. 2, 13 s. Fines, for delinquencies, may amount, at an average, to L. 3 : 6 : 8; out of all which, the ſeſſion-clerk, catechiſt, and kirk-officer get about L. 4 Sterling.

Price of Proviſions and Labour.—Beef and mutton 2½ d. the pound in their ſeaſon, and 3 d. at leaſt in ſpring; geeſe 1 s. 6 d.; ducks 6 d.; chickens 4 d.; pork 2½ d.; butter 12 s. 21 pounds Engliſh; cheeſe 4 d. and of better quality 5 d. and 6 d.; barley 12 s. 6 d.; oats 9 s. 6 d. All theſe kinds of proviſions could be bought 20 years ago at half the preſent prices. Some labourers get 8 d. and 9 d.; but moſt 6 d. in ſummer, and 5 d. in winter: Carpenters and maſons 1 s. 6 d.; tailors 1 s. A common labourer, when married, gets 4 bolls bear-meal, at 10 ſtone weight, and 2 bolls oatmeal at 8½ ſtone weight, land for potatoes and kail-garden, and about L. 2, 10 s. in money, which, with ſome ſmall

ſmall earnings of his wife in ſpinning, or farm work, or partly both, maintain their family pretty well. The wages of a male ſervant, including perquiſites, are equal to L. 3 Sterling, and of female ſervants about L. 1, 10s. a-year.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There was a ſkirmiſh on the plain between Golſpy and the Little Ferry, in the year 1746, between a party of the rebels and the militia of the country, where the rebels were worſted, and ſeveral men of rank taken priſoners.—No remarkable wreck has happened.—The mountain of Binbhragie may be about 3 quarters of a mile high. There is plenty of moorſtone, freeſtone, grey ſlate, all uſed in building houſes and fences.—Some are quarried, and a great many are got on the ſurface.—In 1775 the burn of Golſpy overflowed the glebe-lands, and others adjacent; and in November 1781, it overflowed the ſame twice in the courſe of 10 days.—The number of ploughs in the pariſh is 90, and all of the common kind, except thoſe at Dunrobin; the carts are 24. There is 1 two-wheeled carriage.—There is 1 village along the ſhore of Golſpy.—There are the remains of an old caſtle, ſuppoſed to be Pictiſh, 3-4ths of a mile due weſt from the houſe of Dunrobin; ſome cells entire.—The ſize of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 9. The greateſt height which any have attained is 6 feet.—The inhabitants are œconomical, humane, contented, and not fond of a ſeafaring life.—There are 3 boats conſtantly uſed in fiſhing, ſometimes for freighting. None have entered the Navy, except thoſe that were preſſed, or given up as the complement due from each boat's crew. Property is not changing, except the ſmall eſtate of Uppat, twice ſold of late years, ſo as to yield about 4 *per cent.* intereſt.—The condition of the inhabitants would be ameliorated, by eſtabliſhing manufactures

factures in the country, which is the principal thing wanted.—The Gaelic language principally is ſpoken here. Names of places are derived from it.—Peat and turf are uſed as fuel, and brought from the neighbouring hills, at 3 miles diſtance, at 2d. the back load of the ſmall country horſes, and 3d. in winter and ſpring.—The dreſs of the inhabitants is much improved.

NUMBER IV.

UNITED PARISHES OF LOGIE AND PERT,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER PETER.

Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.

IT ſeems probable, that the pariſh of Logie, or Logie-Montroſe, as it was formerly called, was annexed to the pariſh of Pert perhaps about the year 1610 or 1615. *Logie*, which is a very common name through Scotland, is ſaid to be of Gaelic extraction, and to ſignify a 'flat or 'low ſituation,' which particularly correſponds to that of the Old Church of Logie, which is ſituated in a hollow or low ground, by the ſide of the Northeſk river. *Pert* is of uncertain origin. The Old Church of Pert is likewiſe ſituated on the banks of the Northeſk, very near the Old North Water Bridge, and about 3 miles up the river

from Logie. The United Pariſh is ſomething of an oblong, or rather elliptical form, though by no means regular; its greateſt length from E. to W. is more than 4 Engliſh miles, and its greateſt breadth from S. to N. about 3 miles. The lower part of it lies along the banks of the river Northeſk, which, by a beautiful curve, divides it towards the north and eaſt, from the pariſhes of Marykirk and St Cyrus. The upper part is pretty high, generally bending with a gentle declivity to the river, though good part of it likewiſe has a ſouthern expoſure.—The ſoil, chiefly in the lower parts, is a deep clay, yielding, even in an uncultivated ſtate, plenty of natural graſs. That, in the higher grounds is partly a light loam, and partly of a black moorish caſt, with a clay bottom, ſpontaneouſly producing in its natural ſtate, or when left uncultivated, a ſhort heath, intermixed with furze and broom.—The air is in general ſharp and ſalubrious, though now and then rains and fogs from the ſea, perhaps, in ſome meaſure, contribute to render it unwholeſome. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are fevers, which ſometimes prove highly infectious and epidemical. This was particularly the caſe in 1787-8, when, in little more than the ſpace of a twelvemonth, about 30 individuals died of a malignant fever, which generally produced a delirium about the 4th or 5th day, and cut them off in leſs than a week after. Perhaps an officious, though ill judged attention, ſhown by the people in viſiting their ſick neighbours, tended to ſpread the contagion, which might be aggravated by the want of a due regard to cleanlineſs, and to the admiſſion of freſh air. It was remarked, that though ſeveral young perſons who were ſeized with that fever recovered, no one advanced in life, or even above the age of 30, experienced a recovery. The other diſeaſes moſt common are, gravel, rheumatiſm, and conſumptions. The ſmall-pox alſo at times make conſiderable ravages, and, no doubt,

doubt, prove the more fatal, as the common people ſtill ſhow a very general averſion to inoculation. The plague raged here in 1648.

Springs, Rivers, &c.—There are ſeveral ſprings, though not of very great celebrity; one of them is a ſtrong mineral, which is ſaid to be ſerviceable in ſtomach diſorders. There is a ſpring well in the old church-yard of Logie, which was formerly much reſorted to by people who had ſores. There is a very copious ſpring in Martin's Den, that would fill a bore of 4 inches diameter, nouriſhing great abundance of water, with creſſes in its ſtream. And there is in a field, near the ſpot where the old manſe of Pert ſtood, a plentiful ſpring of excellent water, likewiſe feeding a great quantity of water-creſſes. Both this, and the ſpring in Martin's Den, are ſuppoſed to be anti-ſcorbutic. There is no lake, nor any river, except the Northeſk already mentioned, commonly called the North Water, dividing the counties of Angus and Mearns. This river furniſhes a title to the noble family of Northeſk, who formerly poſſeſſed a large track of land in the pariſh of Pert, and neighbourhood, on both ſides of the river, now in the poſſeſſion of the Earl of Kintore and others. Roſe Hill, which gives title to the eldeſt ſon of the Earl of Northeſk, is an eminence on the road ſide, near the gate of Ingliſmaldie, (a ſeat belonging to Lord Halkerton, now Earl of Kintore,) and a little to the northward of the North Water Bridge; whereas the Southeſk, which runs paſt the town of Brechin, gave title to the Earl of Southeſk, who was attainted in 1715.

The North Water produces excellent trout and ſalmon; the latter, ſome years in conſiderable quantities. In that part of it which bounds the pariſh of Logie Pert are caught, ſome years from Candlemas to Michaelmas, (the legal term of

of fiſhing here,) upwards of 120 ſtone, though ſome ſeaſons often not half that quantity. The ſalmon-fiſhing in this part of the river has for ſome time paſt, been much hurt by a dam-dike belonging to a proprietor of the fiſhing below, the height of which prevents the ſalmon from getting up the ſtream. To remedy this evil, recourſe has lately been had to a proceſs at law. The ſalmon here are chiefly caught with the net, though angling both for trout and ſalmon is likewiſe frequently practiſed. The ſalmon are reckoned in greateſt perfection during the months of February, March, and April. They are commonly ſent for ſale to the Boil-houſe at Montroſe, where, at an average, they bring about 5 s. the ſtone; from thence they are exported to the London market. When ſold on the ſpot, towards the beginning of ſpring, they frequently fetch 6 d. a pound.

Minerals, &c.—There are here ſeveral freeſtone quarries, the rock rather ſoft, and at no great depth from the ſurface. What ſtones they have hitherto produced, have been uſed by the proprietors for their own private purpoſes. But what particularly deſerves notice, is the limework, which for ſome years has been carrying on, and is ſtill carrying on to greater and greater extent in the diſtrict of Pert. Limeſtone was firſt diſcovered here about the year 1780. For ſome time it was wrought in the uſual way, but of late an attempt has been made by the principal proprietor, and with no inconſiderable ſucceſs, to work it by mining, in the ſame manner as coal is wrought in the ſouthern parts of Scotland; and a ſubterraneous drain, intended to be about 15 fathoms deep, and 400 yards in length, is now begun to be cut for clearing off the water from the quarries. The main ſtratum, or vein of limeſtone, extends from the Northeſk nearly in a S. W. direction, through the whole

pariſh of Pert, and enters the pariſh of Strickathrow, where it is likewiſe wrought to ſome extent. There are ſeveral veins, under one another, at different depths from the ſurface. One principal vein is at the depth of about 6 feet, and nearly 12 feet thick. To uſe the ſtyle of the workmen, it is covered with a ſtrong ſcourdy ſtone, mixed with lime, and the pavement or bed is a thick body of reddiſh freeſtone, in which are ſeveral thin ſeams of limeſtone. The vein now mining, which is ſuppoſed to be rather of ſuperior quality to the reſt, is at the depth of more than 40 feet. The ſeveral quarries are ſaid to have produced this year, upwards of 16,000 bolls of ſhells; each boll of ſhells yielding about 3 bolls of lime of exceeding fine powder. The lime is reckoned remarkably good, and is very fit either for building or manure. It is ſold by wheat meaſure at 1 s. 9 d. *per* boll ready money, and 1 s. 10 d. credit. There are a good many hands employed in this work, eſpecially in ſpring and ſummer, perhaps from 20 to 30 or upwards. Good hands are allowed 1 s. 2 d. a-day, and when engaged by the quantity, at the rate of 6 d. the boll. About L. 2 being allowed for powder for 1600 or 1700 bolls. The limeſtone is burned with what is called Coom Coals, (the ſame the blackſmiths uſe,) brought from Inverkeithing and other parts of the frith of Forth to the port of Montroſe, and from thence carried in carts to the limework. This coal is generally purchaſed on the ſpot, at 3 s. 6 d. the boll, the freight to Montroſe, excluſive of cuſtom dues, is about 1 s. 5 d; the cartage from Montroſe to the quarries, (about 7 miles diſtance,) 2 s. the boll or 72 ſtone. In conſequence of the above advantage of lime, improvements are faſt advancing in this neighbourhood, and the value of land is every year riſing. One proprietor is ſaid to have let ſome of his farms at quadruple rent, after having fallowed, limed, drained, and incloſed the ground.

The

The duty on coal, for burning lime into manure, falls very heavy, and the taking it off, would not only operate as an encouragement to the farmer, but might tend much to the improvement of the country in general.

Animals, Birds, &c.—The animals of the wild kind are chiefly hares, foxes, weaſels, and polecats. The birds are, crows of different kinds, eſpecially the rook, the raven, and the carion crow; partridges, blackbirds, herons, thruſhes, ſky and wood-larks; magpies, robins, wrens, linnets, goldfinches, bulfinches, wood-pigeons, hawks of different ſpecies. Gulls are found to flock hither before a ſtorm from the ſea, and we have prodigious flocks of ſparrows, which are peculiarly deſtructive to early grain. There is likewiſe found here in gardens, about the fruit ſeaſon, a bird called by ſome the ooſal, ſaid to be but a recent viſitor in this part of the country, pretty much reſembling the blackbird, only of a lighter dun colour. It devours ſmall fruit very voraciouſly. We have three ſpecies of the ſwallow. Our migratory birds are the cuckoo and ſwallow, which laſt makes its appearance in May, and diſappears about the end of October. The moor of Pert furniſhes the lapwing, appearing in March, and diſappearing about the end of harveſt. In that moor alſo are plovers, wild ducks of different ſpecies, ſnipes, and wild geeſe, which, though they do not neſt here, lodge in the moor, ſometimes in hundreds during the night. The pariſh alſo breeds a conſiderable number of black cattle of a middling ſize.

Population.—According to the return made to Dr Webſter, the numbers were then 696. There can be no document found for aſcertaining with preciſion the ſtate of the population here at a very early period. It appears from the

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ſeſſion regiſter, that between the years 1720 and 1730, the number of births each year, at an average, was from 20 to 24, the number of marriages from 4 to 7, and the number of deaths from 12 to 16; from which it ſhould ſeem, that the population then was nearly as great as at preſent. There are two circumſtances which have tended much to diminiſh the population here, as well as in ſeveral places of this neighbourhood, the monopoly of farms, and the different mode of farming which has of late years been adopted. There are in this pariſh ſundry inſtances of two or more farms having been joined into one, which muſt occaſion a diminution of tenants; and as ſeveral of the farmers now make uſe of hired ſervants in place of cottagers, and plough with one man and two horſes, in place of two men and four horſes formerly uſed; this, likewiſe, though no doubt a more œconomical ſcheme, is leſs favourable to population, and tends to the decreaſe of numbers. Owing to theſe cauſes, the number of individuals would be reduced below what it formerly was, were it not for two other cauſes, proving more than an overbalance, the limeworks already mentioned, and ſome bleachfields, *&c.* in the diſtrict of Logie, which afford employment to a conſiderable number of hands. The amount of the population in the month of February this year (1791) was about 999 individuals, of whom 469 were males, 530 females. None reſide in towns, one family excepted, who generally reſide for ſome months during the winter ſeaſon in Montroſe. There is likewiſe a lady with her maid-ſervant, not included in the above amount, who reſide during the ſummer in the old manſe of Logie. There are only two places in the pariſh, which, with any ſort of propriety, can be called villages, *viz.* North Water Bridge, and Mains of Craigo, the one containing only about 70 individuals, and the other about 60. The annual average of births for 7 years laſt paſt, has

has been nearly 24; of deaths between 11 and 12; of marriages more than 5. Of the 999, there were under

the age of 10,	230
From 10 to 20,	202
From 20 to 50,	377
From 50 to 70,	163
From 70 to 100,	27

Of theſe about 6 or 7 are 80 and upwards, none of them, however, have arrived at 90.—The number of farmers having families, and who earn a livelihood by farming, is about 36. Of theſe about 5 or 6 pay from L. 100 to L. 200 Sterling of yearly rent; the ſecond claſs from L. 20 to L. 50 or more; and the third claſs from L. 5 or L. 6 to L. 20. Beſides theſe, there are ſeveral who occupy ſmall tacks, which they hold chiefly of landed proprietors; but which, being inſufficient for their ſubſiſtence, they have recourſe at times to hiring for manual labour, or exerciſe ſome trade, ſuch as weaving, &c. In this pariſh, beſides the bleachers and millers afterwards to be mentioned, and thoſe employed under them, there are 5 ſmiths, 2 coopers, 9 wrights, 4 maſons, 10 weavers, 7 tailors, 4 ſhoemakers, 1 butcher, 1 dyer, 4 merchants or ſhopkeepers, 2 flax-dreſſers, and about 20 apprentices and journeymen in whole under theſe. A few hands are occaſionally employed in ſalmon-fiſhing, one ferryman at the boat of Craigo, ſeveral miners employed at the limeworks, a few houſehold ſervants, above 80 labouring ſervants, male and female, and 2 ſtudents. More than one third is ſuppoſed to have been born in other pariſhes or diſtricts of Scotland. There is no nobility reſident in the pariſh; of gentlemen heritors 2 reſide, 3 are non-reſident. There is one ſurgeon, who was in the navy.—All our people are of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 2 or 3 Seceders, 8 or 10 Epiſcopalians, and about half a dozen of perſons, who call themſelves Bereans; no Roman Catholics.—The annual births

are to the whole population, nearly in the proportion of 1 to 42. Suppoſing both parties pariſhioners, the proportion between the annual marriages and the whole population would be nearly as 1 to 99; but as it frequently happens, that ſome one of the parties married belongs to a different pariſh, this muſt vary the proportion accordingly, and make it conſiderably leſs. The annual deaths to the whole population, may be, on an average, as 1 to 86 or 90. The number of married men having houſes is about 160; the number of bachelors having ditto, 14, and widowers having ditto, 10. Each marriage, at an average, produces between 4 and 5 children. None were ever known here to have died for want. The people in general being ſober and induſtrious, ſuch crimes as murder and robbery are unknown. One or two ſome years ago emigrated to America, though from no neceſſity, or want of good employment at home. None have been baniſhed from the pariſh as far back as can be remembered. A few cottages have been ſuffered to fall, but others in general have been built in lieu of them. The number of inhabited houſes is about 224, and the number of perſons at an average to each inhabited houſe, is between 4 and 5.

Manufactures, &c.—The following are the principal: Two maſter bleachers reſiding with their families, one at the bleachfield of Logie, the other at the bleachfield of Craigo. At Logie bleachfield, belonging to a company in Montroſe, who have the field in tack from the proprietor of Craigo, there is a complete apparatus for bleaching of thread, and the quantity bleached here annually is from 60,000 to 70,000 ſpindles, which is almoſt wholly diſpoſed of at the London market. This work, which was ſet a-going about 30 years ſince, but which has of late been on the increaſe, affords employment each ſeaſon to about 40 hands,

men. women, and boys. Finding their own victuals, they receive of wages from 3 s. to 5 s. a-week, according to their age and expertneſs at the buſineſs.—Craigo bleachfield, which is likewiſe rented from the proprietor of Craigo by a gentleman in Montroſe, is at preſent ſubſet to a bleacher. It was formerly uſed for bleaching of thread, but is now chiefly employed for whitening cloth. It affords work during the proper ſeaſon to 6 or 7 hands, at about 8d. a-day. Both fields lie on the banks of the Northeſk, within half a mile of one another. The rent is extremely moderate, only a good deal has been laid out on proper houſes, machinery, *&c.* At the mill of Craigo, beſides the mill for grinding meal, there is a mill for cleaning yarn for the duck manufacture, and brown ſheeting; it likewiſe contains an apparatus for beating coarſe thread, and furniſhes pretty conſtant work for 3 hands, each of whom may earn at the rate of 10d. a day Here alſo is a flax mill, employed in breaking and ſcutching flax, after a much improved method, at the rate of at leaſt 1500 ſtones avoirdupoiſe yearly. This mill gives conſtant employment to about 8 hands, each earning from 7 s. 6 d. to 9 s. a-week. The flax wrought here is all for home conſumption. Near the above is a waukmill and dyehouſe. At the mill of Logie, beſides a meal and barley mill, there is hard by the river ſide a ſnuff mill, held in feu from Craigo by a merchant in Montroſe. Between 30 and 40 years ago, when this mill was firſt erected, and when importation of tobacco was allowed at the port of Montroſe, there were annually manufactured here, and ſold at about 1 s. the lb. for exportation, near 40, 00 lb. ſnuff. Since the importation of tobacco at Montroſe was prohibited, this manufacture has conſiderably declined. Tobacco for this mill is now conveyed coaſtwiſe by the Canal from Glaſgow. There is now only one perſon employed here, and about 5000 lb. of ſnuff annually

ly manufactured and ſold for home conſumption, at the rate of 2 s. 4 d. the pound. There is likewiſe here a mill, with 10 beaters for beating thread. In the united pariſh are 3 meal mills, employing a miller, beſides aſſiſtants. The whole pariſh of Pert is under thirlage to the mill of Pert, ſome paying $\frac{1}{5}$, and others $\frac{1}{11}$ multure, beſides knaveſhip, *&c.* The whole land of Craigo is under thirlage to the mill of Craigo at $\frac{1}{5}$, beſides knaveſhip, *&c.* There is no thirlage at the mill of Logie. This thirlage, which is a ſort of old feudal tenure, by which tenants and others are bound at a certain fixed rate, to have their corns ground at certain mills, is generally conſidered as a grievance, and is at ſome mills a prelude to very indifferent uſage.

Agriculture, &c.—Some woodlands on the eſtate of Craigo are found to produce a conſiderable variety of moſs, no fewer than 14 or 15 different ſpecies, ſome of which have been tranſmitted for the inſpection of the Royal Society at London. Some of the old woods are Scots fir, others a mixture of hard wood, ſuch as aſh, elm, oak, birch, &c. The young plantations on the different eſtates in the pariſh conſiſt partly of Scots fir, and partly of larix, ſpruce, plane, elm, beech, aſh, birch, in ſhort, an intermixture of all kinds, commonly raiſed in nurſeries.—About 450 acres have been planted here within theſe 10 or 15 years paſt; and of theſe about 270 acres were incloſed, and nearly planted out the 2 laſt years.—According to the beſt computation, there are from 180 to 190 horſes in the pariſh, young and old; about 740 black cattle, excluſive of calves, about 200 of which are annually brought up. There was formerly a great number of ſheep in this pariſh; but ſince the incloſing of fields and ſowing of artificial graſs took place, the breeding of ſheep has in a great meaſure

meaſure been given up; ſo that there is ſcarcely now 100 ſheep in the whole pariſh, and theſe are chiefly kept for the uſe of the table. The pariſh can afford itſelf a very tolerable ſupply of various kinds of proviſions. It does not export any conſiderable quantity; but finds in general a ready market for grain of different kinds at Brechin and Montroſe, where it is bought partly for the uſe of the inhabitants, and partly by commiſſion for exportation to other places. Both at Brechin and Montroſe, but eſpecially the latter, a good deal of bear and barley is ſold for malting. Till of late years very little ground was ſown in artificial graſſes. It is ſaid the firſt ever known in the pariſh was about the year 1746 or 1747, when a perſon in the pariſh of Pert having ſown a ridge with clover, got a public proclamation made for people to keep off their ſheep and cattle from it, which brought many to ſee it as a matter of curioſity. Oats are generally ſown about the end of March, and begin to be reaped about the 1ſt of September, and ſometimes later. Barley is ſown about the middle of April, bear later; and both are commonly reaped rather earlier than oats. Peaſe are ſown and reaped much about the ſame time with oats. Wheat is ſown here in September and October, and reaped about the ſame time with barley. The ripening of the different corn crops is rather retarded by the liming now ſo much in uſe. Flax is ſown about the end of March, and reaped the 1ſt of Auguſt. Turnips are ſown about the middle of June; graſs ſeeds according to the different crops with which they are ſown out; and hay is uſually cut in July. The groſs amount of the pariſh in Scots acres, with the different ways in which theſe at an average are employed, are as follow:

Groſs

Groſs amount, excluſive of farm-ſteadings, (that is, farm-houſes and their offices), roads, gardens, &c. 3860 acres.

	Acres.
Annually employed in oats, - -	740
——— in barley and common bear, -	420
——— in peaſe, - -	144
——— in wheat, - -	70
——— in flax, - -	46
——— in fallow, turnips and potatoes,	160
——— in hay for cutting, -	270
——— in paſture, including waſtes, -	890
——— in moor uncultivated, -	350
——— in woodlands, - -	770
	3860

The valued rent is L. 3816 : 9 : 4 Scots. The real rent, including the value of what the ſeveral proprietors hold in their own poſſeſſion, ſurplus rents, rents of mills, bleach-fields, &c. lime works not included, may be from L. 1800 to L. 1900 Sterling. The number of ploughs is about 55; of carts 64. Several of the ploughs are of the old Scotch kind, others of a lighter conſtruction. The beſt arable land in the pariſh lets at about a guinea an acre; that of an inferior quality at about 10s. or 15s. The number of farms is rather diminiſhing, owing to junction or monopoly. Moſt of the pariſh of Pert, and a good part of Logie, is incloſed, partly with hawthorn, and partly with furze hedges on ſunk fences. No doubt hedges are a great benefit in point of ſhelter, as well as ornament. They are only found inconvenient in a wet harveſt and low ſituation. The hawthorn likewiſe harbours prodigious flocks of ſparrows, which devour conſiderable quantities of grain. Perhaps ſtone fences, built pretty high, might in ſome reſpects

be

be preferable, as ſheep could be more commodiouſly kept within theſe; and ſurely it is a circumſtance much to be wiſhed, that the breed of ſheep were more encouraged here than it now is. Many of the people in the pariſh have ſtill an unreaſonable averſion to incloſing, notwithſtanding its many obvious advantages.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—It is an advantage, that the centre of the united pariſhes, lying at nearly an equal diſtance from the market towns of Montroſe and Brechin, about 4 or 5 meaſured miles from either, there is found a ready ſale for grain poultry, butter, cheeſe, eggs, &c. But then there is a diſadvantage reſulting to thoſe of the pariſh who have ſuch articles to buy; becauſe on account of the demand at theſe towns, enhanced of late by a number of monied men, who have ſettled in theſe places and neighbourhood, there is no article of proviſion can be purchaſed within the pariſh, but at a very dear rate, and even higher than in the above market towns. There is likewiſe a temporary diſadvantage, which thoſe eſpecially of the poorer claſs are beginning to feel: The coal has here, for a conſiderable time, been the principal article of fuel, yet the common people have in a good meaſure likewiſe depended partly on furze and broom, and partly on turf and peat. The furze and broom begin to fail, as moſt of the waſtes, from whence theſe were procured, are either incloſing or converting into corn ground. The article of turf becomes ſtill ſcarcer, as the moors from which that was got, are now for the moſt part incloſed and planted, and the low country moſſes which furniſhed peat, become every day more and more exhauſted, ſo that in a few years a total failure of them may be apprehended; and as to peats from the hills, the diſtance from hence, which is 10 or 12 miles, part of it very ſteep and diſagreeable road, renders it extremely difficult,

cult, as well as expenſive, to procure them; ſo that the pariſhioners here, in a ſhort time, will be chiefly confined to two articles, wood and coals. Burn-wood at preſent is by no means plentiful; and though there be a good many riſing plantations in the pariſh, yet theſe moſtly conſiſt of hard wood; and, at any rate, ſeveral years muſt elapſe before they can prove ſerviceable in the way of fuel. On this account, there will be at leaſt a temporary neceſſity of uſing a greater quantity of coal, which will fall very heavy on the poorer ſort, by reaſon of the additional tax on that article, all to the north of the Red Head, a promontory near Arbroath. It is hoped the Legiſlature will be induced to aboliſh this very partial and unreaſonable tax. Under this article it may be proper to remark, that the bleachfields, lime quarries, &c. in the pariſh are a very conſiderable local advantage, as they furniſh employment, eſpecially during the ſpring and ſummer ſeaſons, to near 80 individuals; beſides, the ſmaller tenants, and others who have horſes, earn no inconſiderable profit, by carting coals to the lime-works from Montroſe.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is one year with another about L. 80 Sterling. The patrons are the Crown, and the New College of St Andrew's *per vices*. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary, including ſchool-fees, and other perquiſites, is better than L. 20 Sterling a-year, beſides a free houſe and garden. He has in the winter ſeaſon from 40 to 50 ſcholars, and in ſummer from 30 to 40. His terms for Latin and arithmetic are 2s. 6d. the quarter; writing 2s.; reading Engliſh 1s. 6d. The number of poor in the pariſh at preſent receiving alms, is about 25. The annual amount for their relief, may be, one year with another, about L. 40 Sterling.

Prices of Proviſions, Labour, &c.—All kinds of butcher meat ſell nearly at 4d. the lb. except pork, which is about $3\frac{1}{2}$d.

3½ d.; eggs, 4 d. the dozen; fowls, from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. the pair, according to the ſeaſon; chickens, 7 d. the pair; ducks, 1 s. 4 d. ditto; butter, at an average through the year, may be reckoned at 8½ d. the lb.; whereas, about 30 or 40 years ago, beef or mutton could have been bought here at 1¼ d. the lb.; a pair of good chickens, at 2 d. a dozen; eggs, at 1 d.; butter, at 4 d. the lb. and other articles in proportion.—The wages of an ordinary labourer are about 8 d. a-day in winter, and 10 d. in ſummer, finding his own proviſions; of a maſon, about 1 s. 8 d.; of a wright, about 1 s. 4 d.; of a tailor, 1 s. if he finds his own victuals, and 6 d. if victuals are afforded him. The maſons and wrights moſt frequently work by the piece.—Coal, Scotch and Engliſh, is the chief article of fuel here, though peat, turf, furze, broom, and wood, are likewiſe occaſionally uſed. The Scotch coal is at preſent about 8 s. the boll at the port of Montroſe, the boll weighing 70 ſtone, cartage from thence about 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. the boll, according to the diſtance. The Engliſh coal, which is likewiſe much uſed, is about 1 s. 6 d. the barrel, ſix barrels being ſuppoſed rather better than a boll of Scotch. Peat from the moſſes in Fettercairn pariſh, about 6 miles diſtant, is bought on the ſpot out of ſtacks at 1 s. the foot, the cartage about 1 s. 6 d. the cart load. The cart load of broom or furze, coſts from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.; turf can ſcarcely be got at any price; dead wood is ſold here at about half value. With regard to the expence of a common labourer when married, if he have a family conſiſting of three or four children, it cannot be leſs than L. 12 or L. 13 Sterling a-year; yet if he and his wife be frugal and induſtrious, they may make a ſhift to earn a tolerable livelihood, eſpecially, if they have a kail yard, and maintenance for a cow, as is pretty generally the caſe here. The man may gain at the rate of 8 d. or 9 d. a day, the wife, by ſpinning, may earn 8 d. or 1 s. a-week,

even when occaſionally engaged in nurſing; and the children, when 7 or 8 years of age, begin to be hired out as herds. Though the food of the labourer be but coarſe, yet he has plenty of meal, potatoes, and milk, and his bed is generally good. Pottage, broſe, and flummery, are the peaſants three ordinary meals. The wages of men ſervants in huſbandry throughout this pariſh and neighbourhood, are from L 6 to L. 7 Sterling a-year, and they are commonly engaged half yearly. The wages of women ſervants, who are likewiſe engaged by the half year, are about L. 3 a-year, together with what is called bounties, conſiſting uſually of an apron and a yard of coarſe linen, value in all about 3 s. The harveſt wages of men reapers are, now for good hands about L. 1, 5 s. and women ditto about 16 s. 8 d. beſides victuals. When engaged by the day, men get about 1 s. women, 8 d. and their victuals.

Stature, Manners, Dreſs, &c.—The people are ordinarily of a middling ſtature, the men being from 5 feet 5 inches high, to 5 feet 10, and the women from 5 feet 2 or 3 inches, to 5 feet 7, though there are ſeveral of the men 6 feet, and of the women 5 feet 9 or 10. There are inſtances of ſome individuals having reached the height of 6 feet 3 or 4 inches.—The people in general are diſpoſed to induſtry, and ſeem fond of agriculture. There are no manufactures carried on in the pariſh, excepting the limeworks, bleaching, &c. already mentioned, only the women find excellent employment in ſpinning factory yarn, given out by the ſhopkeepers in the pariſh, for which at preſent they get at the rate of 1 s. and even 15 d. the ſpindle. The people do not ſeem to poſſeſs any fondneſs either for a ſeafaring or military life; the former, however, they look upon to be rather more reputable than the latter, which, on account of its ſuppoſed connexion with profligacy and

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irreligion, they regard in a degrading point of light, and when the ſon of ſober and diſcreet parents inliſts to be a ſoldier, they give him up in a manner for loſt. Though the pariſhioners here in general cannot be charged with want of œconomy, or with being more expenſive or luxurious than their neighbours, yet it muſt be acknowledged, that their mode of living now is widely different from what it was 30 or 40 years ago. About that time, excepting in the houſes of perſons of property or in a genteel ſtation, tea was unknown; but now there is ſcarcely a houſe in the pariſh, excepting thoſe in indigent circumſtances, in which tea is not uſed at leaſt once a-week, and by many of the farmers twice a-day. Formerly butcher meat was ſeldom or never uſed by the lower or middling ranks, except about Chriſtmas, but now it is no unfrequent article at any ſeaſon of the year. Next to oat and bear meal, potatoes, which begin to be much cultivated, conſtitute the principal food of the poorer claſs.—The mode of dreſs likewiſe, within theſe 20 or 30 years paſt, has undergone a very conſiderable alteration. Formerly the women of inferior ſtations appeared at church on Sundays in bed blankets, or tartan plaids; but now they wear ſcarlet plaids, or duffle cloaks and bonnets; and maid-ſervants are ſometimes as well dreſſed as their miſtreſſes. Formerly farmers and reſpectable tradeſmen were contented with the blue bonnet, and with ſay for their beſt clothes, while hiremen and apprentices wore coarſe grey, or white woollen cloth, home made; but now, not only farmers and maſter tradeſmen, but farmers ſervants, apprentices, and cottagers, frequently appear at kirk and market in hats and Engliſh broad cloth. Formerly clocks and watches were not uſed in the pariſh, excepting, perhaps, by the laird or miniſter; but now, in general, every farmer has his eight-day clock, and almoſt every ſervant has his watch.—With regard to the ſtyle in

which the gentry in this parish live, it can scarcely be reckoned more splendid and sumptuous than it was 20 or 30 years ago, though, generally speaking, there is an increase both of splendour and luxury in many places of the neighbourhood, occasioned chiefly by the influx of wealth from the East and West Indies.

Antiquities.—There are in the parish or district of Logie, at nearly a mile to the west of the mansion-house of Craigo, and a little to the right of the public road, leading from the Old North Water Bridge to Montrose, three remarkable tumuli, called the three Laws of Logie, and not far from thence, on the border of the parish of Montrose, a fourth tumulus, called Leighton's Law. Of the three Laws of Logie, two have been opened, in digging sand or gravel for the roads. In one of these, some years ago, was found a stone coffin; not any ways cut or wrought, but consisting of separate pieces in a natural state, something resembling grey slate stones. Within it was a human skeleton, having the bones of an extraordinary size, mostly entire and of a deep yellow colour, but when touched, exceedingly brittle. The second Law was found to contain four human skeletons, deposited only at about a foot depth from the surface, likewise consisting of exceedingly large bones; and at a very little distance from these was found a beautiful ring, supposed to be of ebony, as black as jet, of a fine polish, and in perfect preservation. This ring, which the minister of the parish has in his custody, is of a circular form, flat in the inside, and rounded without; its circumference is about 12 inches, and diameter 4. The thickness of its rim in the middle is more than half an inch, and its greatest breadth about an inch and a half, which diminishes in a gradual proportion till it is only abont $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. It lets in an ordinary hand, would fit a pretty large

large wriſt or arm, and perhaps may have been worn as a bracelet by ſome perſon of diſtinction. In the ſame tumulus, at about 4 feet from the ſurface, was found an urn full of aſhes, ſomething in the ſhape of a common bottle without a bottom, lying horizontally, with the neck end cloſe, and of a ſubſtance reſembling a crucible. There were likewiſe diſcovered in the ſame place ſeveral cavities, near 6 feet from the ſurface. The third and largeſt of the three Laws, which has not yet been broken up, contains a ſpace equal to the $\frac{1}{8}$ of an acre, nearly circular, with a ſort of foſſe round it, filled up with round ſtones, intermingled with pieces of glaſs. There is reaſon to believe, that theſe Laws, if duly examined, would be found to contain many more bones, urns, &c.: but there is no tradition concerning them, by which it can be aſcertained whether they have been raiſed by the Danes or Romans, or ancient Caledonians. Mention is made by Buchanan in his hiſtory of Scotland, to which Gordon alludes in his Itenerarium Septentrionale, that about 1000 years ago, a little before the celebrated battle of Luncarty, in the reign of Swino, a party of Danes landed at the mouth of the Eſk, and fought in that neighbourhood ſeveral ſkirmiſhes with the Scots; and it is not improbable but theſe Laws or mounds might have then been raiſed, in burning or burying the ſlain. Or, as Law is a word of Saxon origin, perhaps theſe tumuli might have been begun by the Saxons, who, at a very early period, are ſaid to have made incurſions all along the coaſt of this iſland. The three Laws, with the adjacent ground, have been lately incloſed and planted by the proprietor of Craigo.—Eaſt from the above Laws, in a ſtraight line, and within a plantation of Craigo's, are three large ſtones ſet up on end, with two others very near them, in a ſimilar poſition; and to the eaſt of all are the remains of a circular fort of building, about 16 yards in diameter. The ground

was

was lately trenched, but no mark of human bones diſcovered. This is conjectured to have been a drudical temple.

Roads, Bridges, &c.—There are two, or rather three public roads, leading through the united pariſh. Beſides theſe, are ſundry private or by-roads. Till a year or two ago, the roads in the pariſh were made and kept in repair by ſtatute labour; but by a late act of Parliament, the ſtatute labour in this county was converted into money. By the act, the occupiers of lands, whether proprietors or tenants, are liable to pay yearly, an aſſeſſment in money, for the lands occupied by them reſpectively, according as the ſaid lands ſtand valued in the tax-roll of the county, at a rate not exceeding the ſum of L. 1, 4s. Sterling for each L. 100 Scots of valued rent. Accordingly in this pariſh, now, the landed proprietors being aſſeſſed in proportion to their valued rents, levy the aſſeſſment from their tenants according to the real rents they pay, and they again from their ſubtenants; the proprietors, at the ſame time, being accountable for what they themſelves occupy. This mode is deemed rather more favourable to the poorer claſs of inhabitants, than the exaction of the ſtatute labour in kind, but is thought more burdenſome on the farmer. Turnpikes are conſidered as by no means neceſſary here; and the erecting of them at preſent would be rather an unpopular meaſure.—With regard to bridges, 2 have been built this ſummer in the pariſh of Logie, chiefly by ſubſcription, on the road leading from Marykirk to Montroſe. On the weſt public road are 2 ſmall bridges, built ſome years ago. As to being kept in repair, they are now upon the ſame footing with the public roads. The principal bridge in the pariſh, and which connects it with the Mearns, is the North Water Bridge, conſiſting of 3 arches, of exceeding ſtrong

ſtrong work. This is now commonly called the Old Bridge, with a reference to the new one, which ſome years ago was built acroſs the North Water, near the mouth of it, on the great coaſt road. The old North Water Bridge was built by John Erſkine of Dun, ſuperintendant of Angus and Mearns, upwards of 200 years ago. Concerning the builder of this North Water Bridge, popular tradition ſays, "That having had a dream or viſion, that unleſs he ſhould build a bridge over Stormy Grain, where 3 waters run in one, he would be miſerable after death. Accordingly going out one day in a penſive mood, and walking along the banks of the North Eſk, he met an old woman near the ſpot where the bridge now ſtands, and aſking the name of the place, received for anſwer, that it was called Stormy Grain, where 3 waters run in one. Hence, recogniſing this to be the ſpot to which his dream alluded, he immediately ſet about building a bridge there; but the bridge being founded, and the work going on, a ſpeat in the river ſwept it away, upon which he ordered the bridge to be begun anew. But after it was conſiderably advanced, it tumbled down a ſecond time. Mr Erſkine was now ſo much diſcouraged, that he fell into a deep melancholy, and kept his bed. One day, however, obſerving a ſpider attempting to weave a web, he ſaw it fall down; making a ſecond attempt, it was equally unſucceſsful; but trying a third time, it ſucceeded. Accordingly encouraged by this, he cauſed it be begun a third time, and had the good fortune to ſucceed." Whether there be any real ground for this traditionary ſtory or not, it is by no means abhorrent from the caſt of mind that characteriſed thoſe times.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In 1782, the crop was not all got in till conſiderably after Martinmas. Ten bolls of bear were then purchaſed at the ſeſſion's expence, for the uſe of

of the poor at the rate of 24 s. the boll, and were either ſold at a reduced price, or given gratis; beſides a preſent of 10 bolls, conſiſting of a mixture of oats, barley, rye, &c. received then from Government, was diſtributed among the poor. Oat-meal here at that time ſold at 20 s. the boll.—There are two principal alehouſes, in a manner neceſſary, as being on public roads, with one or two more, perhaps, leſs requiſite. The bad effects of theſe on the morals of the people are not very perceptible, though the increaſe of public houſes both in town and country is always to be regretted. The heavy Exciſe laws, and the enormous duty on malt, make beer leſs brewed in private families than formerly, though perhaps, whiſky is more uſed. Within theſe ten years paſt, near 30 new houſes or cottages have been built in the pariſh where there were none before; perhaps, about half a dozen during that ſpace have been pulled down, or ſuffered to fall into ruins. Employing cottagers in agriculture, is thought by ſome of the farmers here to be leſs frugal than keeping hired ſervants in the houſe, though it no doubt, is more favourable to population.—The meadows and lower grounds on the Northeſk are very ſubject to inundations, which have ſometimes done conſiderable damage, eſpecially in the time of harveſt. In 1774, when the river roſe to an almoſt unprecedented height, it ſwept away a great deal of cut corn, and laid flat ſundry fields that were uncut, ſpoiling them with ſand; and laſt autumn, an uncommon flood ſwept away from a farm in this neighbourhood, on the oppoſite banks of the river, more than half an acre of ground, with about 60 bolls of lime lying upon fallow; at any time ſix hours of wind and rain from the S. or S. E. will make it riſe, ſo as to overflow all its banks.—In the year 1784, a very remarkable meteor was ſeen here, as it was through the moſt part of the kingdom, as well as in ſome foreign parts. It made

its

its appearance about 7 o'clock in the evening, moving in a rapid and majeſtic manner, ſomething in a direction from N. W. to S. E. having its viſible magnitude equal to that of the full moon, and a light much ſuperior; at length it diſappeared as it were in the ocean. This meteor muſt have been of prodigious bigneſs, its velocity immenſe, and its altitude many miles.—The common people here make uſe of the ordinary Scottiſh dialect, with leſs tone than they ſpeak in Fife, though not near ſo ſhort as they do in Aberdeenſhire. With regard to the names of places in the pariſh, many of them ſeem to be of Gaelic or Celtic extraction.—Property in land here is very often changing; of this there have been no leſs than four material inſtances in the united pariſh of Logie and Pert, within 8 or 10 years paſt; and during that period, or little more, near the banks of the Northeſk, and within the extent of 5 or 6 miles, no fewer than 8 eſtates have been in the market, and changed their proprietors. This rapid alienation of property, may in one inſtance or two be accounted for on political conſiderations, but is chiefly imputable to the two following cauſes:—Some of the old proprietors having been men of pleaſure, and not ſufficiently attentive to their worldly intereſt, were obliged to ſell their land from the impulſe of neceſſity, or pecuniary embarraſſment; others of them, again, who had ſeveral children, having, in contradiction to the old feudal ſpirit, made liberal proviſion in their ſettlements for the younger branches of their families; this rendered the ſale of their eſtates unavoidable on their demiſe. Land ſells here at 25 or 30 years purchaſe, and ſeems to be on the increaſe.—The people are by no means ungenerous or uncharitable, according to their circumſtances; if at any time they ſee virtue or induſtry in diſtreſs, their chearful and ready ſupport is not wanting; but when vice is plunged into wretchedneſs, perhaps their pity is too much withheld,

from

from not making a proper diſcrimination between the perſon and the crime, the vice and the miſery it involves. The people enjoy the comforts and advantages of ſociety in a very tolerable degree, though the increaſe of taxation, and of the price of proviſions, eſpecially with regard to the poorer claſs, operates as a conſiderable abatement. Several of the tenants enjoying long leaſes at the old rent, which is nearly one half leſs than what their farms would let for at preſent, have in their hands the means of a comfortable ſubſiſtence, and by induſtry and frugality may become rich. But the new leaſes in general being pretty far ſtretched, and the wages of ſervants every year growing higher, thoſe, it is to be preſumed, who hold ſuch leaſes, if they are not extremely active and induſtrious indeed, muſt find conſiderable difficulties. Were the wages of ſervants rendered in ſome meaſure ſtationary, and greater moderation obſerved in the raiſing of rents, not only might tenants and their ſervants be on a more eligible footing, but landed proprietors would enjoy greater and more permanent ſecurity, beſides the generous ſatisfaction of not entirely engroſſing the fruits of honeſt induſtry. Were there premiums allotted by monied men for the improvement of barren ground, and the melioration of ground already in ſome meaſure cultivated, (the improvement or melioration to be eſtimated by an impartial jury,) many beneficial conſequences might enſue.

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF ERSKINE,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.)

By the Rev. WALTER YOUNG, M. A. F. R. S. Edin.

Name, &c.

THE name *Erſkine* was written in ancient charters *Iriſkyn*. Antiquaries are not agreed, whether the family of Mar, who held the lands ot Erſkine until the year 1638, gave their ſirname to the lands, or received it from them. Crawford is of the latter opinion, in conſequence of his general principle with regard to the aſſumption of fixed ſirnames by the proprietors of land. Other antiquaries relate a ſtory of the ſirname *Eris-Skyne* having been given by King Malcolm II. to the founder of that noble family, on occaſion of a military atchievement. The lands or caſtle of Erſkine have probably given name to the church, and of courſe to the whole parochial diſtrict annexed to it. The form of the

the pariſh is oblong; the length from eaſt to weſt, and a little north, is about 6 Engliſh miles, and the breadth from 3 to 4; the number of acres which it contains is not known. It is bounded on the north wholly by the river Clyde.

Surface and Soil.—The general appearance of the eaſtern part of the pariſh is flat, with gentle ſwells. A ridge of hilly ground runs through the weſtern diviſion. As this however declines gradually on the north ſide towards the Clyde, and on the ſouth towards a valley, there are even in that diviſion conſiderable tracts of arable ground. The ſoil is in general light and not deep. In the north-eaſt part of the pariſh, it is a blackiſh or dark grey mould, mixed with gravel, having under it gravel, or a mixture of ſand, clay, and gravel; in ſome places till, and under that rotten rock or freeſtone. From this ſtructure, that tract abounds with ſprings of excellent water. The ſoil being warm and dry, is well adapted for producing oats, bear, and ſown graſſes; it alſo yields plentiful crops of potatoes of the beſt quality, and of turnips. It is not ſo proper for wheat and peaſe; and even the oats and barley which it produces are ſomewhat inferior in quality, or weigh leſs to the meaſure than what are produced in ſtronger and deeper ſoils. But perhaps the moſt valuable property of this ſoil is the diſpoſition it has to run to graſs. When it is allowed to reſt, if it has been judiciouſly managed, and not overcropped, it in a year or two becomes covered with a thick ſward of graſs, often mixed with white clover, which, though not of the richeſt quality, is abundant, and continually improves during the 4 or 5 years that the ground remains in paſture. The ſame things may be obſerved of the weſtern diviſion of the pariſh; only as that is more hilly, the ſoil is more ſhallow and ſtony, and in general lies

lies over whin rock. There are 6 or 7 farms in the ſouth-eaſt part of the pariſh, which are ſituated along the edge of, or within an extenſive tract of flat or carſe ground, a great part of which is covered with peat moſs, and has probably been all ſo. The ſoil of theſe farms is a deep clay, and abundantly fertile. It may alſo be obſerved, that foreſt trees thrive well in many places of the pariſh, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Clyde.—There is no lake nor river in the pariſh; the boundaries of it are for the moſt part marked out by ſmall ſtreams or burns. The Clyde, which waſhes the northern edge, is in breadth, when the tide is full, from about a quarter of a mile at the eaſt, to above a mile and a half at the weſt end of the pariſh. The ground immediately adjoining to the Clyde is every where flat. The breadth of this plain is various; at one place, (hence called Longhaugh), it may be near a quarter of a mile; but in moſt places, it is not above the half or fourth part of that extent. Behind the plain, the bank generally riſes pretty ſuddenly to a conſiderable heighth. As the Clyde has ſuch a wide bed, land floods ſeldom raiſe it very conſiderably, unleſs a ſtrong S W. wind, and a high tide occur at the ſame time. In that caſe, ſome of the low grounds are covered, but ſeldom any remarkable miſchief is done.—There are ſome freeſtone quarries in the eaſtern part of the pariſh. Two of them in one of Lord Blantyre's parks have been wrought of late for the great canal, and for building new quays for the ferry. Some appearances of coal have been diſcovered in theſe grounds, but they have never been properly purſued. The hills in the weſt part of the pariſh are in general green; the tops of them only are covered with heath.

Climate

Climate and Diſeaſes.—Although a conſiderable quantity of rain falls here, as in all other places on the weſtern ſide of the iſland, the air cannot properly be called moiſt, and may be pronounced upon the whole healthy. By the light ſoil, and gravelly bottom, the water is ſoon abſorbed, or it runs off by the hollows; and as any hollow, or flat pieces of ground, which are not ploughed, are always compleatly covered with graſs, there are no unwholeſome marſhes. Agues, dyſenteries, and ſuch other diſeaſes as are occaſioned by noxious effluvia from the ſoil, are ſcarcely known by name. The moſt prevalent diſtempers are fevers, ariſing from cold and other cauſes. Theſe at times become in ſome degree epidemic, or go thro' a conſiderable number of families. Theſe epidemics are hardly ever of a very malignant nature, and ſeldom above 3 or 4 perſons die in the courſe of them. They are probably ſpread and aggravated more than they would otherwiſe be, from two cauſes, both of which, however, are gradually diminiſhing: 1*ſt*, From large families being often crowded together in ſmall houſes, where too little attention is given to cleanlineſs and ventilation; and, 2*dly*, From an idea which the country people have, that it is their duty frequently to viſit their neighbours when in diſtreſs. Hence it happens, that the place in which the ſick perſons are lying is frequently crowded with people, the patients are ſtifled, and the infection is ſpread. Theſe epidemic fevers appear at the rate of about once in 2 or 3 years. The ſmall-pox ſtill makes occaſionally conſiderable ravages among the children, as the people are only beginning to overcome their prejudices againſt inoculation.

Ferries.—There are 2 ferries acroſs the Clyde in this pariſh. One of them, called the Eaſt Ferry, or Ferry of Erſkine, is nearly oppoſite to the village of Kilpatrick, and ſerves for tranſporting horſes and carriages, as well as foot-paſſengers.

paſſengers. The quays for it were lately built, and are abundantly commodious. The other called the Weſt Ferry, is oppoſite to the caſtle of Dunbarton, and is chiefly uſed for foot-paſſengers.

Fiſheries.—There are two or three ſalmon fiſheries in the Clyde, as it paſſes along this pariſh; but as the fiſhing banks are more contiguous to the oppoſite or Kilpatrick ſhore, none of them are occupied by inhabitants of this pariſh. The fiſh are taken in large nets, the rope of one end of which being made faſt to the ſhore or bank, and the net laid in folds upon the flat end of a boat, the boat is rowed a certain way into the river, dropping the net as it goes along, and, having made a ſweep againſt the tide, is brought back to the place from which it ſet out. The net is immediately afterwards drawn aſhore. The right of catching ſalmon on moſt of the fiſhing banks in Clyde from Renfrew, as far down as the confines of Ayrſhire, belongs by ancient charter to the burgh of Renfrew. The ſalmon fiſhery in this tract has, for many years, been rather ſcanty. The operations for improving the navigation of the river, which were executed by the town of Glaſgow about 20 years ago, are thought to have been prejudicial to it. The ſalmon are either carried to Renfrew, or ſold in the neighbourhood. The medium price is about 5 d. or 6 d. the pound. Beſides ſalmon, there are in this track of Clyde, conſiderable quantities of large red trout, which are ſometimes catched by ſet lines; and people who have proper nets, often take conſiderable quantities of ſpirlings, (ſmelts) and of ſhrimps.

State of Property.—The landed property of this pariſh is diſtributed among 8 heritors, whoſe valued rent exceeds L. 100 Scots, and 9 ſmaller heritors or feuars. The land

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is occupied by 10 proprietors, who keep in their own hand the whole or ſome part of their ground; by 48 tackſmen, who may be called farmers, in ſo far as they ſubſiſt wholly or chiefly by their farms; by 12 who have ſmaller farms, and when not employed upon them, work as day-labourers; and laſtly, by 22 handicrafts men, or people of different profeſſions, who have ſmall pieces of ground taken either from the landlords or from tenants for ſupplying their families with milk and other articles of proviſion. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4451 Scots. The real rent is at preſent about L. 2980 Sterling.

Cultivation.—Of the whole land of the pariſh, about two thirds are arable, and nearly that proportion may be in a regular courſe of tillage and paſture. The old ſyſtem was to take at leaſt two, and for the moſt part three ſucceſſive crops of oats, and after that to allow the ground to reſt, as it was called, or to remain in paſture. The farmers uſed their own dung, ſo far as it would go, for potatoes and bear, but imported no foreign manure. This was nearly the ſtate of huſbandry till about the year 1775 or 1776, when the late Alexander Lord Blantyre, having, upon the death of his brother, ſucceeded to the eſtates and honours of that family, came to reſide at Erſkine. He had for a number of years before that time been engaged in a courſe of practical farming in Eaſt Lothian, in conſequence of which he had not only acquired an accurate and extenſive knowledge of the general principles of agriculture, but was able to deſcend into the detail of it, and to direct and overſee every minute operation. He was immediately ſenſible, that the huſbandry of Eaſt Lothian would not ſuit the light ſoil and moiſt climate of Erſkine. He perceived, at the ſame time, that the ſyſtem of the country was bad, and that by more gentle cropping, by more plentiful manuring,

and

and by introducing fallow crops and ſown graſſes, the ground would be gradually improved, and its produce upon the whole augmented, ſo as more than to repay the additional expence. That he might be well acquainted with the nature and the powers of the ſoil, as well as ſet an example to the country, he took under his own management the parks of Erſkine, and two or three farms in the neighbourhood. The ſyſtem which he purſued was nearly as follows: After the previous neceſſary operations of incloſing, draining, clearing of ſtones, &c. he took a crop of oats. The following year, after three and ſometimes four ploughings, and plentiful liming and dunging, he took a fallow crop. For this he preferred turnips, as he never failed to have a large return of them, as they ſtood the winter better than cabbage, and left the ground in better condition than potatoes; and, as the ſoil had not ſufficient depth for carrots or parſnips, the third year he laid down the field with graſs-ſeeds. As a crop or nurſe to the graſs ſeeds, he tried wheat, barley, and early Eſſex oats. The firſt did not ſucceed well, and upon the whole he gave the preference to the laſt. He cut the hay for one or two years thereafter, and then allowed the ground to remain in paſture.

Soon after he ſettled at Erſkine, the leaſes of moſt of the farms in the barony expired. He was very unwilling to diſpoſſeſs the old families, ſome of whom had occupied theſe grounds for generations. He knew at the ſame time, that they had neither ſtock nor ſkill ſufficient to enable them to pay a rent adequate to the real value of the land. He propoſed to them to pay a very moderate advance of rent, leſs indeed than moſt of them expected, with about 7 or 8 *per cent.* of the expence of incloſing; but that they ſhould be bound to obſerve a mode of management ſimilar to his own; in particular, that they ſhould not have two

ſucceſſive crops of oats upon the ſame ground, and that they ſhould introduce turnips and ſown graſſes into their ſyſtem. With theſe conditions all of them but one complied, and took their farms for 19 years. They however complained of the reſtrictions. They thought, that they were allowed too few crops of oats, the ſtaple commodity of the country, during the courſe of their leaſe; they were not well acquainted with the turnip huſbandry, nor with the method of buying, fattening, and ſelling cattle. Upon after reflection, his Lordſhip thought proper to relax the rigour of his reſtrictions, and to allow them more diſcretionary powers. From the example, however, which he had given them, and the ſpirit he had infuſed into them, they all began with vigour to improve their farms. They purchaſed conſiderable quantities of lime and foreign manure. They became more active and induſtrious; and though the turnip huſbandry was never carried by them to any extent, and is now generally laid aſide, they all adopted the practice of laying down their fields in good condition with ſown graſſes, having a ready and ſecure market for their hay in the towns of Port-Glaſgow and Greenock. The conſequence of this has been, that the country is conſiderably improved both in appearance and in value; the tenants are eaſy in their circumſtances, and indeed wealthy for their ſtation; their rent is paid in general with perfect punctuality, and there is every reaſon to believe, that, upon the expiration of the leaſes, they or their ſons will be able and willing to pay a rent equal to what may be conſidered as the juſt value of the ground. The writer of this account feels a particular ſatisfaction in having an opportunity of exhibiting ſuch an example, and at the ſame time of paying a deſerved tribute to the memory of an amiable and reſpectable nobleman, and a moſt worthy and uſeful citizen, whoſe death was lamented by people of all ranks in this country as a

public misfortune. His conduct as a landlord was not only humane, but highly judicious, as it equally tended to promote the real intereſt of the proprietor and tenant, and the general advantage of the country.

About 20 years ago, the two-horſe plough, with the curved mould board and feathered ſock, was introduced into this country by Mr George Orde. The uſe of it is now become univerſal, and the country wrights conſtruct it with neatneſs and accuracy *.

The larger tenants commonly make the greateſt part of their oats into meal, for which there is a conſtant demand. Of this they retain what is neceſſary for their own families. They diſpoſe of part in the neighbourhood, and the reſt they either ſend to public market, or ſell to the dealers in the neighbouring towns. They diſpoſe of their potatoes and hay in the ſame manner; and almoſt the whole of the bear or barley that is raiſed, is carried to the towns. The labourers, handicraftſmen, and ſmaller tenants, who do not raiſe produce ſufficient for their families, either purchaſe from the larger tenants, or when the price of meal is high, and the ports are open, they buy Iriſh, or other imported meal; ſo that there is frequently both an exportation and importation of this principal article of proviſion. What the proportion may be cannot well be aſcertained; it varies every year according to the ſeaſons and the prices of grain. It is believed, however, that upon the whole there is conſiderably more corn, &c. produced, and more ſheep and

* Oats are ſown about the middle or end of March and through the month of April; and bear in the month of May. The time of reaping is various, depending on the ſeaſon. The harveſt is ſeldom fairly begun before the 1ſt of September, and it is generally completed by the 1ſt of November.

and cattle fed in the pariſh than are conſumed by the inhabitants *.

Population.—By the poll-book of the county of Renfrew, made up in the year 1695, there is reaſon to believe, that the number of ſouls in this pariſh was at that time conſiderably above 900. By the returns to Dr Webſter in 1750, it was 829. From liſts taken up by the preſent miniſter in 1771, the number of ſouls appeared to be about 870. The year after that, a tract of land, which had been let in ſmall farms, and upon which 12 families reſided, was, at the expiration of the leaſes, converted wholly into a grazing farm. At preſent no more than 3 families live in that tract in houſes lately built, the old ſteadings having been allowed to fall. In the courſe of a few years after that, 1 or 2 ſmall farms, and ſome cottages, were ſuppreſſed, by which the population was ſtill farther diminiſhed. Since that time it has been pretty much ſtationary, and is rather greater at preſent than it was 8 or 10 years ago. —By an accurate enumeration, made in the beginning of the year 1792, the numbers were as under:

Males, - -	402
Females, - -	406
Total, - -	808

Under

* From 1 to 12 acres may be annually employed in raiſing flax for private uſe. There are 3 corn-mills in the pariſh. The yearly rent of the beſt arable ground is 20s.; of inferior ditto 10 s. and upwards; of the beſt paſture ground 21 s.; and of inferior ditto 7 s. 6 d. the acre.

Under 10 years,	211
From 10 to 20,	170
—— 20 to 50,	320
—— 50 to 70,	88
—— 70 to 80,	17
—— above 80,	2
Of whom one is about,	90

Families,	1	of	17	—	17
——	1	of	13	—	13
——	3	of	12	—	36
——	3	of	11	—	33
——	4	of	10	—	40
——	10	of	9	—	90
——	12	of	8	—	96
——	19	of	7	—	133
——	21	of	6	—	126
——	15	of	5	—	75
——	18	of	4	—	72
——	14	of	3	—	42
——	16	of	2	—	32
——	3	of	1	—	3
Total,	140				808

Average to a family, nearly $5\frac{7}{9}$

Wrights, (masters, journeymen, and apprentices),	15	Cooper,	1
Weavers, ditto,	16	Millers,	4
Shoemakers,	5	Ferrymen,	3
Smiths,	3	Household male-servants,	5
Tailors,	3	Labouring ditto,	45
Masons,	2	Female-servants	82
		Bachelors, heads of families,	9

Unmarried

Unmarried women above 45,	10	Seceders,	none
Widowers,	8	Cameronian,	1
Widows,	23		
Heads of families, who were not born in the pariſh,	62	Ploughs,	61
Of theſe born in the neighbouring pariſhes, and connected by marriage or conſanguinity with the old families of the pariſh,	25	Horſes,	170
		Cattle domeſtic,	695
		Ditto grazing,	195
		Sheep,	230
		Public-houſes, including Croſs-hill, the ſtage between Glaſgow and Greenock,	8

There is a regiſter of baptiſms and marriages, from November 1705 to the preſent time, which appears to have been regularly kept, unleſs, perhaps, for ſome few years before and after the year 1750. From this regiſter, the following numbers of baptiſms and marriages, in the ſeveral periods of 10 years, from the beginning of the year 1710, to the beginning of 1790, have been extracted.

Baptiſms.

					Baptiſms.		Marriages.
From	1710	to	1720	—	344	—	147
——	20	to	30	—	304	—	100
——	30	to	40	—	277	—	99
——	40	to	50	—	224	—	92
——	50	to	60	—	193	—	76
——	60	to	70	—	233	—	76
——	70	to	80	—	192	—	71
——	80	to	90	—	237	—	82*

Of theſe numbers annual averages may eaſily be taken. No regular regiſter of burials was ever kept here, till towards the end of the year 1783. The numbers of baptiſms, marriages, and burials, in each of the 8 years, from the 1ſt of January 1784, to the 1ſt of January 1792, are as under:

		Baptiſms.		Marriages.		Burials.
1784,	—	24	—	10	—	19
85,	—	23	—	12	—	17
86,	—	33	—	10	—	10
87,	—	17	—	7	—	20
88,	—	27	—	8	—	12
89,	—	29	—	2	—	19
90,	—	21	—	7	—	12
91,	—	25	—	13	—	21
		199		69		130
Averages,	-	$24\frac{7}{8}$		$8\frac{5}{8}$		$16\frac{1}{4}$

The

* The average of births to a marriage is probably near 6, if not above it. The number of barren marriages is extremely ſmall. The greateſt part of marriages produce from 7 children to 10 or upwards.

The exceſs of the population above the uſual proportion of births and burials is probably to be accounted for chiefly from this circumſtance: The greateſt part of the ſervants in the pariſh come from Argyleſhire, between the ages of 14 and 20. Many of theſe, after remaining a few years, leave the pariſh, and are replaced by others. As they have commonly got over the childrens diſeaſes before they come here, and are remarkably healthy, very few of them die during their reſidence in the pariſh. They therefore increaſe the population, without at all increaſing the number of baptiſms, or ſenſibly increaſing the number of burials. If to 650, the product of 25 by 26, there be added 127, the number of ſervants, the ſum 777 probably exceeds the mean population, for the period for which the average is taken.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The ſtipend is 110 bolls 1 firlot of oat-meal, and L. 25 : 18 : $2\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling of money, including communion-elements. The glebe conſiſts of between 5 and 6 acres of ground, all arable. Lord Blantyre is patron. —The ſchoolmaſter teaches reading, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping. His ſalary is 200 merks Scots a-year, beſides L. 1 Sterling as ſeſſion-clerk, and 10s. for teaching poor children; he has alſo a free houſe. He receives for teaching reading 1 s. 6 d. the quarter, and 2 s. for writing and arithmetic. The average number of ſcholars is 30.— The annual amount of the various branches of the fund for the relief of the poor, on an average of 10 years, including the intereſt of L. 120 of accumulated ſtock, is L. 27, 6 s. At preſent 9 perſons, including a foundling boy, receive regular penſions, and 3 or 4 receive occaſional ſupplies. There are no begging poor belonging to the pariſh.

Language.

Language.—The weſtern dialect of the Scots language, is perhaps no where ſpoken in greater purity than in this and the adjoining pariſhes. The moſt ſtriking peculiarity of that dialect, is a diſpoſition to ſhorten the penult and prolong the laſt ſyllable of words, when the ſtructure of them admits of that being done. The vowel which is expreſſed in the penult ſyllable, is for the moſt part the obſcure imperfect ſound which the Engliſh give to the character *e* when between two conſonants; and the lengthened vowel of the laſt ſyllable is very often the Engliſh ſound of *a* in the word *part*. The penult is pronounced with the acute accent, or riſing inflection of the voice, and the laſt ſyllable with the inverted, or falling and riſing circumflex. The intervals between the extremes of gravity and acuteneſs of tone, are often conſiderable.—A few names of places in this pariſh, as Glenſhinnoch, Barcloch, and ſome others, beginning with the ſyllable *bar*, ſeem to be of Celtic origin; but the greateſt part of them are Engliſh compounds, deſcriptive of the ſituation of the place, or expreſſing ſome circumſtance relating to it, as Craigton, Longhaugh, Dryknows, Longbank, Woodcockhill, &c.

Roads.—The great turnpike road from Glaſgow to Greenock paſſes through this pariſh. As this road has unfortunately been carried over ſome very high grounds, and in conſequence of that is extremely incommodious for the heavy carriages which are continually paſſing between theſe towns, an act of Parliament has lately been obtained for making a new road along the ſide of the Clyde, the line which ought originally to have been purſued. This new road is now begun to be executed. Although there are excellent materials for making roads in moſt places of this pariſh, the croſs roads through it are ſtill in an indifferent condition, owing to the difficulty of calling out the

ſtatute

ſtatute labour, and rendering it efficient. An act of Parliament has lately paſſed for converting the ſtatute labour of this county into money, which, from the trial that has been made this ſummer, promiſes to be attended with the moſt beneficial effects.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The principal advantages of this pariſh may be accounted the dry ſoil and the good water with which it abounds, and the facility with which roads may be made through moſt places of it. The chief diſadvantage is the diſtance and high price of coal, lime, and foreign manure; in conſequence of which it will not probably, at leaſt for a courſe of years, become a conſiderable ſeat of manufactures. There are extenſive peat moſſes in the pariſh and neighbourhood. This, however, is found to be a precarious and even an expenſive fuel. Coals are every year becoming more in uſe, although the greateſt part of them muſt be brought from about Glaſgow, diſtant 13 or 14 miles; and, when carried by land, now coſt 7 s. the cart of 10 or 11 hundred weight *.

The prices of proviſions, the day's wages of labourers in huſbandry, of carpenters, maſons, tailors, &c. and the wages of ſervants, are the ſame in this pariſh as in the neighbouring pariſhes of Houſton and Kilallan. See vol. I. p. 324, 325. It may now be added to what is there ſtated, that in conſequence of the rapid progreſs of manufactures in Paiſley and the neighbouring towns and villages, the wages of country ſervants and labourers are continually riſing, and to ſuch a degree as to be ſeverely felt by the farmers in the country. The ſums, though conſiderable,

* Lime coſts 13 s. or 14 s. the chalder ſharp meaſure, and dung from Port-Glaſgow and Greenock can ſcarcely be laid upon the ground under 2 s. 6 d. the cart.

which they may expend in procuring lime and manure, may be refunded by the increaſed quantity and value of their produce; but the continually growing expence of management can be no otherwiſe repaid to them, but from the advanced price of their commodities; and from this advantage they are effectually precluded by the copious importation from Ireland and other places, which never fails to happen whenever the price of oat-meal exceeds 16 s. the boll. The effect of this may probably be, to induce the tenants in this country to turn a greater proportion of their lands into graſs. It is hardly neceſſary to obſerve, that every labourer, who is moderately induſtrious, has it in his power to make a decent proviſion for his family.

One of the laſt trials for witchcraft which happened in Scotland, had its origin in this pariſh in 1696-7. The perſon ſuppoſed to have been bewitched, or tormented by the agency of evil ſpirits, or of thoſe who were in compact with them, was Chriſtian Shaw, daughter of John Shaw of Bargarron, then about 11 years of age. A ſhort account of this trial may be ſeen in Arnot's Collection of criminal trials. Three men and four women were condemned to death as guilty of the crime of witchcraft, and were executed at Paiſley. A particular account or journal of the extraordinary circumſtances of this caſe was drawn up at the time when it happened, every paragraph of which is affirmed to have been originally ſubſcribed by witneſſes, among whom we find the names of almoſt all the noblemen and gentlemen, and many of the miniſters of the neighbourhood. The narrative was afterwards printed without theſe ſubſcriptions, along with a very pious and decently written preface by the publiſher. There were ſubjoined to it the atteſtations of a phyſician and ſurgeon, the judicial confeſſions of ſome of the perſons accuſed of witchcraft, and an abſtract of the pleadings of the advocates

cates on the part of the Crown, and of their charge to the jury. Theſe laſt, in their reaſonings upon the nature of the evidence, and the credibility of the facts, and in the anſwers to objections, diſcover much learning and ability. A few copies of the original publication are ſtill extant, and a new edition of it was a few years ago printed at Paiſley. It may furniſh ample matter of ſpeculation to thoſe whoſe object it is to trace the progreſs and variation of manners and opinions among men. The ſubſequent hiſtory of this lady is, however, more intereſting to the political enquirer.

Having acquired a remarkable dexterity in ſpinning fine yarn, ſhe conceived the idea of manufacturing it into thread Her firſt attempts in this way were neceſſarily on a ſmall ſcale. She executed almoſt every part of the proceſs with her own hands, and bleached her materials on a large ſlate placed in one of the windows of the houſe. She ſucceeded, however, ſo well in theſe eſſays, as to have ſufficient encouragement to go on, and to take the aſſiſtance of her younger ſiſters and neighbours. The then Lady Blantyre carried a parcel of her thread to Bath, and diſpoſed of it advantageouſly to ſome manufacturers of lace, and this was probably the firſt thread made in Scotland that had croſſed the Tweed. About this time a perſon who was connected with the family, happening to be in Holland, found means to learn the ſecrets of the thread manufacture, which was then carried on to great extent in that country, particularly the art of ſorting and numbering the threads of different ſizes, and packing them up for ſale, and the conſtruction and management of the twiſting and twining machines. This knowledge he communicated on his return to his friends in Bargarron, and by means of it they were enabled to conduct their manufacture with more regularity and to a greater extent. The young women in the

the neighbourhood were taught to ſpin fine yarn, twining mills were erected, correſpondences were eſtabliſhed, and a profitable buſineſs was carried on. Bargarron thread became extenſively known, and, being aſcertained by a ſtamp, bore a good price. From the inſtructions of the family of Bargarron, a few families in the neighbourhood engaged in the ſame buſineſs, and continued in it for a number of years. It was not to be expected, however, that a manufacture of that kind could be confined to ſo ſmall a diſtrict, or would be allowed to remain in ſo few hands for a great length of time. The ſecrets of the buſineſs were gradually divulged by apprentices and aſſiſtants. A Mr Pollock in Paiſley availed himſelf of theſe communications, and laid the foundation of the well eſtabliſhed and extenſive manufacture of thread, which has ever ſince been carried on in that town. From that time, the women in this neighbourhood have continued to practiſe the ſpinning of fine yarn, which they diſpoſed of to the Paiſley manufacturers. Within this twelvemonth, however, many of them have laid aſide the wheel, leaving that uſeful implement of domeſtic induſtry to be occupied by thoſe of higher rank, and have applied themſelves to the eaſier, the more elegant, and at preſent the more profitable employment of flowering muſlins.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF MELROSE,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK.)

By the Rev. Mr GEORGE THOMSON.

Name, Extent, &c.

BEFORE the abolition of hereditary juriſdictions, Melroſe was a burgh of regality. The name is ſuppoſed to be Gaelic, compounded of *Mull* and *Roſs*, 'a bare promontory,' remarkably deſcriptive of a little peninſula about a mile to the eaſt, formed by the windings of Tweed, which is ſtill called *Old Melroſe*, and famous for its ancient monaſtery, one of the firſt ſeats of the religious Culdees in this country. The pariſh is in length from N. to S. about 7 miles, and in breadth towards the N. 5, towards the S. near 7 miles.—The town of Melroſe is pleaſantly ſituated on the north ſide and bottom of the Eildon hills, and on the edge of a fertile valley, upwards of a mile in length, interſected

ſected by Tweed runniug through it in a ſerpentine direction, and ſurrounded by hills of a conſiderable height. In this valley, beſides Melroſe, are the villages of Danieltoun, Darnick, Bridge-end, Gattonſide, and Newſtead, moſt of the inhabitants of which hold their poſſeſſions in feu, as do alſo the inhabitants of Eildon and Newtown, two villages farther down the river, and of Blainſlie, a village on the weſt ſide of Leader, at the north extremity of the pariſh.

Soil, Agriculture, and Produce.—The ſoil is various. The ſouth end of the pariſh is moſtly a ſtrong clay, excellently adapted for wheat. The banks of the Tweed are a fine light dry ſoil, fit for all kinds of grain. On the north ſide of the Tweed, the ſoil is of three kinds: 1*ſt*, A light earth, mixed with ſand, upon a gravelly bottom; 2*dly*, A ſtrong clay upon a till, full of ſprings, and very wet; 3*dly*, Moſs. For about 5 miles ſquare, the north part of the pariſh is hilly, and makes excellent ſheep paſture, interſperſed with a few ſmall fields of corn. For its improvement it has been ſuggeſted, that the different proprietors ſhould make large ſtrips of plantations, incloſed with ſtone fences, both to ſhelter the land, and to conſume the ſurface-ſtones which encumber it, and that the additional rent would amply compenſate the trouble and expence.

Within theſe 30 years, the farmers have made vaſt progreſs in agriculture. Through their unremitting induſtry, a great quantity of ground, formerly covered with heath, broom, and furze, has been bared, and now produces excellent crops, or is converted into good paſture. The value of land has conſequently very much increaſed. A feu of ſeveral acres, purchaſed about 40 years ago at L. 10, was lately ſold at the advanced price of L. 150 Sterling.—The pariſh is ſuppoſed to produce double the quantity of grain that it did about that time. The manure employed is lime,

lime, marl, and dung. The firſt of theſe, though diſtant 20 miles, and from ſome places 25, is in general very much uſed. As the land, owing to this diſtance, and to the advance in the price of cattle, wages of ſervants, &c. is improved at a great expence; the profit of the former ſcarcely bears a juſt proportion to the increaſe of rent, and of every other article.

The Engliſh plough drawn by 2 horſes, has ſuperſeded the old heavy Scotch plough drawn by 4 oxen and 2 horſes. The rotation of crops upon the clay land is fallow, ſucceeded by wheat; peaſe, barley laid down with graſs and opened with oats. Upon the dry light land, it is fallow or turnip, barley laid down with graſs and opened with oats. The wheat is of an excellent quality; the barley good, though inferior to that of the lower parts of Roxburghſhire and Berwickſhire; the oats in general produce, at an average, near 8 ſtone the boll, Linlithgow meaſure. Thoſe of Blainſlie have been long famed for ſeed. This muſt be owing to ſome peculiar coldneſs in the ſoil, and northerly or eaſterly expoſure of the fields, which makes theſe oats agree with any ſoil and expoſure to which they are carried. There is a great demand for them from England and different parts of Scotland, and they commonly fetch ſome ſhillings the boll above the ordinary price of ſeed oats.

The pariſh contains 280 horſes, 1006 black cattle, 13,720 ſheep. The black cattle are of a middling ſize, and excellent for fattening; in general, they do not exceed 60 ſtone when ſlaughtered. The ſheep are of a breed between the long white-faced humble ſheep, from the ſouth of Teviotdale, and the ſhort Highland kind. In ſmearing, to one pint of tar was formerly uſed only 2 lb. butter, but now 3 lb. and ſometimes 4 lb. by which, though leſs ſmearing materials are found neceſſary, the expence is greater; but in return, the quantity of the wool is thereby increaſed, and the quality

lity improven. This laſt effect is not acknowledged by ſome of the farmers. A change of breed is the moſt effectual method of improving the wool, and it muſt be frequently done to prevent the wool from degenerating again, like grain ſown often on the ſame ground. Some farmers allege, that the wool might be improved to a great extent, were they not prevented from making the attempt by the nature of the climate and paſture, as fine woolled ſheep are more tender in their conſtitutions than thoſe that are coarſe, they are leſs able to bear the ſeverity of the winter-ſtorms, and never thrive upon a wet paſture. From want of attention to theſe circumſtances in attempts to improve the wool, conſiderable loſs has been ſuſtained in this pariſh. As ſome paſtures, from their being wet or dry, expoſed or ſheltered, are adapted to ſheep of a hardy or a delicate conſtitution, this points out what quality of wool they can produce. By a few experiments on a ſmall ſcale, the intelligent farmer will eaſily find out to what degree of improvement he can bring his wool, with ſafety to his flock.—Allowing 100 fleeces to a pack, the pariſh produces in 1 year 137$\frac{1}{8}$ packs of wool, which ſells from 10s. to 15s. the ſtone.

There are ſeveral orchards about Melroſe and the neighbourhood, and the gardeners raiſe a great many green and cabbage plants, which are carried to Clydeſdale, and even ſo far as Dumfries. The fruit and plants together, may, at an average, yield annually L. 300.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 19,985 : 4 : 6 Scots.

Manufactures.—Melroſe has long been famed for linens, named *Melroſe land linens*, for which commiſſions have been received from London and foreign countries. So far back as the year 1668, the weavers were incorporated under what is called a *Seal of Cauſe*, from John Earl of Had-

dington, then "Lord of the lordſhip, and bailie principal of the regality of Melroſe." For ſeveral years paſt this trade has, from a variety of cauſes, been very much upon the decline. If ſomething does not occur to prevent it, Melroſe will in all probability ſoon loſe the name and *buſineſs*, (as they themſelves expreſs it), of manufacturing theſe linens. Its importance to this place, and its rapid decline, will appear from the following ſtatement taken from the ſtampmaſter's yearly abſtract: From the 1ſt November 1754 to 1ſt November 1755, there were ſtamped 33,282½ yards, valued at L. 2575 : 10 : 11¼. In the 10 ſucceeding years there was no great riſe or fall in the quantity and value of linens. From November 1764 to November 1765, there were ſtamped 32,300⅝ yards, value L. 2495 : 14 : 9¼. From November 1773 to November 1774, 20,789¾ yards, value L. 2051 : 16 : 7¼. In the following 10 years, the quantity was ſo far down as 17,792 yards, value L. 1845 : 12 : 4 Sterling *.

* The following are the cauſes to which this decline has been aſcribed: 1*ſt*, The attention of the truſtees for manufactures, &c. has been principally directed, of late, to the encouragement of the woollen manufacture through Scotland. In Galaſhiels, and that part of this pariſh which is contiguous to it, they have laid out a conſiderable ſum in buildings and machinery; and the manufacturers there have drawn annually, for ſeveral years, from L. 40 to L. 70 Sterling, in premiums. This has enabled them to give more to ſpinners, than the profits on linen can afford, and has, of courſe, diminiſhed the number of linen-ſpinners, and ſpoiled their hands for that employment. 2*d*, Women-ſervants get ſo high wages, and are ſo much employed in out-work, that a ſufficient number of them cannot be procured to ſpin linen-yarn, though the price of ſpinning it has been conſiderably advanced. About 10 years ago, the prices were only, for ſpinning 4 hanks yarn from 1 pound of lint, 1 s. 2 d.; for 5 hanks, 1 s. 4 d.; for 6 hanks, 1 s. 8 d.; and for 7 hanks, 2 s. The preſent prices are, for 4 hanks, 1 s. 7 d.; for 5 hanks, 1 s. 8 d.; for 6 hanks, 2 s.; and for 7 hanks, 2 s. 2 d.: Some ſpinners get for 7 hanks, 2 s. 4 d. 3*dly*, Since the A erican war, the price of Dutch flax has greatly riſen, and the land here is moſtly unfit for raiſing any.

A few hints have been ſuggeſted by the principal manufacturers for the recovery of this decaying trade. Theſe ſhall be given in their own words: "Were the truſtees to give encouragement to weavers by premiums and extras on well made pieces of linen, as was done through Scotland about 40 years ago, it might have as good an effect as it had then, the tradeſmen being much better now than when they began their prizes at the above period; and were encouragement given alſo to young girls to ſpin properly, much might be expected. This could be done by employing ſome ſpinning miſtreſſes in different little towns through the pariſh, and offering ſome prizes to the beſt ſpinners, in order to prompt the emulation of the ſcholars. Finally, were ſome attention paid by the proprietors to a decaying bleachfield, theſe things, and what elſe their wiſdom may ſuggeſt, might ſtill, through the bleſſing promiſed to the diligent, recover a falling back ſtate of buſineſs."

In order to encourage this manufacture, the bleachfield mentioned above was ſet on foot through the patriotic exertions of the Reverend Mr James Brown, late one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, and previouſly miniſter of this pariſh. During his reſidence at Melroſe, and for ſeveral years afterward, the bleaching buſineſs was carried on with conſiderable ſpirit and ſucceſs. For ſome time paſt it has declined. In dry ſeaſons, there is a great ſcarcity of water in the field, though abundance might be procured at no great expence. The buildings are old and in great diſrepair, and little is to be expected from the proprietors. The property is divided into a great many ſhares, ſo low as L. 5; ſo that the profits which might be derived from it are no ways adequate to ſtimulate the exertions of the proprietors, moſt of whom are in good circumſtances, and independent of this buſineſs. Beſides, no dividends of profits having been made among them for ſeveral years, they are little diſpoſed to be at

much expence in repairs and improvements on what they already conſider as a dead ſtock. To carry on this buſineſs with advantage, the field ſhould be let to an intelligent bleacher, or the property thrown into the hands of one or two proprietors who might find their account in ſuperintending it.

Of late, however, it is ſaid, that owing to the good management of the preſent bleacher, the buſineſs has been upon the increaſe. From his ſtatement, it appears, that in the year 1787 there were whitened 715 pieces of linen; in 1788—855; in 1789—917; in 1790—1202; in 1791—1232. This cloth does not all belong to the pariſh, but is taken in from different parts of the country.

The woollen manufacture has of late been making conſiderable progreſs, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Galaſhiels, for which ſee the Statiſtical Account of that pariſh, Vol. II. p. 299. Beſides what is done by them, there are manufactured annually in Gattonſide and Melroſe, at an average, about 282 ſtone of wool, the cloth of which may yield about L. 1041. Since November 1791, ſeveral looms, both here and in the neighbouring pariſhes, have been employed in weaving cottons. In addition to thoſe employed by the manufacturers near Galaſhiels, there are 80 looms in the pariſh; 20 of which are employed in weaving cotton, 30 in woollen, and 30 in linen-work. During the ſummer, when the demand is greateſt, ſome of the woollen looms are employed in weaving linen; but as cotton is found both more cleanly and more profitable than either woollen or linen, it is probable, that ſhould the demand for it continue, the number of weavers employed in that line will gradually increaſe.

Population, &c.—This pariſh contains at preſent 2446 inhabitants. According to Dr Webſter's report, the numbers

bers then were 2322. There are of theſe Burgher-Seceders 128; Anti-Burghers 151; Relief 53; Methodiſts 18; in all 350 diſſenters. Beſides theſe ſectaries, ſome of the different claſſes of Independents and Anabaptiſts mentioned in the Statiſtical Account of Galaſhiels, have, with their manufactures, been imported into this pariſh. Mr Milne, in his deſcription of this pariſh, publiſhed in 1743, makes the number of examinable perſons 1800. If he comprehended all above 10 years of age, the population muſt have undergone little alteration, but ſeems rather to have increaſed than diminiſhed *.

The

* A ſtatement might be given of births, marriages, and burials, from our pariſh-regiſter, but it is very incomplete; becauſe the Seceders, conſidering this as an appendage to the Eſtabliſhed Church, rather than an inſtitution calculated to promote the civil intereſt of their poſterity, do not in general regiſtrate the names of their children; and, becauſe the temptation to neglect this among the lower claſſes of people, has alſo been increaſed by the late tax upon regiſtration. They think that the money required out of their ſcanty funds, for this purpoſe, is better employed in providing againſt preſent wants, than in ſecuring a very diſtant, and perhaps uncertain, good to their poſterity. Nor can the marriage-regiſter be depended on, as there are many irregular or (as they are commonly called here) o'er-the-march marriages It is ſuſpected that certificates to this purpoſe, are ſometimes forged or antedated by the parties, in order to conceal a previous blunder that may have been committed. This practice is alſo countenanced by ſome Epiſcopal Clergymen upon the border, who, for the ſake of the beggarly fee of office, marry all who apply to them, without even requiring any evidence of the parties being legally entitled to this privilege. There have alſo been inſtances of Fiſcals in Royal Burghs, and of other Courts, ſummoning parties before a Juſtice of the Peace, who, on their acknowledging a previous marriage, (which perhaps never took place), decerns them to pay a fine, and adjudges one half of it to the proſecutor. Certificates of regular proclamations have alſo been produced, not only here, but in all the neighbouring pariſhes, from the Seſſion-clerks of Edinburgh, Canongate, and Weſt Church, in favour of people who were never two days reſident within their bounds; and on ſuch certificates, many marriages have been celebrated. This evil claims the attention of the Legiſlature.

The prevailing diſeaſes in the pariſh are conſumptions and rheumatiſms. The latter may be owing to the ſevere cold to which the lower claſſes are expoſed during the winter, from the vaſt expenſe of fuel, which cannot be uſed to ſuch extent as is neceſſary for their health and accommodation. Coal, their principal fuel, is diſtant a mile farther than lime, and ſells at 9d. and 10d. the hundred weight in ſummer, and ſometimes higher in winter. The ague formerly prevailed much, but for ſome years has greatly ſubſided. This may be owing to the improvement of the country by drains, and to the people's being better fed and clothed.—They are now getting above the prejudices againſt inoculation. This happy diſcovery for the preſervation of mankind is more and more practiſed, and with the greateſt ſucceſs. The writer of this account, as well as his predeceſſors, has, in his intercourſe with the pariſhioners, laboured to obviate their ſcruples, and recommended the practice. Through ſuch perſuaſion, ſeveral children have been inoculated, whoſe parents have afterward expreſſed their gratitude. It is hoped, that in a ſhort time, a practice will become univerſal, which has been already begun, and through the bleſſing of God, will continue to be a mean of ſaving many infants from an early grave.

Religion, &c.—Notwithſtanding the many religious ſectaries which exiſt here, a ſpirit of mutual forbearance prevails. That inveterate rancour, to which the diviſions in our church gave birth about 50 years ago, is now almoſt worn away through the friendly aid of time, the only cure for ſuch an evil. All parties are diſpoſed to live in peace, and to interchange the offices of good neighbourhood with one another. In ſo large a ſociety, as may be expected, exceptions muſt be made. In general, however, the people have always been diſtinguiſhed for their good ſenſe, ſobriety,

sobriety, and a decent and uniform attendance upon public ordinances. Those who adhere to the Established Church, are steady in their attachment to her principles and government, and are equally removed from a fiery bigotted zeal, and from a lukewarm indifference about religion.

Stipend, School, &c.—The Duke of Buccleugh is patron. The stipend, including L. 100 Scots for communion-elements, is 48 bolls of victual, 2-3ds oat-meal, and 1-3d bear, and L. 886 : 13 : 4 Scots. The glebe consists of 4 Scots acres, of the worst land in the neighbourhood, lies at an inconvenient distance from the manse, and has always been reckoned by the different incumbents to be incapable of improvement, and scarcely worth the labouring. It is hoped, that the heritors will soon see the propriety of removing this inconvenience, in return for the many fertile fields thrown into their hands by the Presbyterians at the Reformation, especially as the minister receives only L. 20 Scots for a grass-glebe.—The schoolmaster's salary, and other emoluments, are about L. 20 yearly, besides the fees of teaching in general near 80 scholars. He has also a commodious dwelling-house, and a tolerable garden. The stated school-fees are, the quarter, for English 1s. 6d.; for writing 2s.; for writing and arithmetic 2s. 6d.; and for Latin 5s. For the accommodation of the highland part of the parish, Mr Robert Moffat, portioner of Threepwood, mortified, in the year 1759, the sum of 1000 merks Scots, the interest of which is, in terms of the deed of mortification, applied towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster in that quarter.

Poor.—The poor are supported by a voluntary assessment of heritors, most of whom are feuars, and by the public collections made at the church-doors upon Sundays.

For

For this purpoſe, they regularly meet once every quarter, along with the kirk-ſeſſion, to conſider the ſtate of the poor. At ſuch meetings applications are made for admiſſion to the charity-roll, and a weekly penſion, or a temporary ſupply, is granted. No plan that has been adopted or conceived can be more juſt or beneficial than the one adopted here. By the lower claſſes of people the lands are cultivated, and their value increaſed. To whom, therefore, can they ſo naturally look for maintenance, when, through age or diſeaſe, they are unable to provide for themſelves, as to thoſe who may have reaped the fruits of their paſt induſtry, when in the vigour of their days, and favoured with health and ſtrength? As the non-reſiding, as well as the reſiding heritors, are ſubject to this aſſeſſment; and as it is impoſed according to the valuation of their reſpective properties, they are burdened only in proportion to their ſuppoſed advantages, from the paſt induſtry and expenditure of the poor. Upon the ſame principle, commerce might become an object of aſſeſſment, the value of which, (if not left to the capricious judgment of aſſuming ſuperiors, but to an equitable jury), might, without entering into the ſecrets of trade, be nearly aſcertained *.

In

* To prevent unneceſſary applications, none are admitted upon the roll, without firſt ſurrendering all their little effects, of which a regular inventory is taken; and which effects are, upon the pauper's deceaſe, but not ſooner, ſold for the benefit of the public. As their pride is generally intereſted to retain theſe effects as long as poſſible, few make application till forced by dire neceſſity. In caſes of temporary diſtreſs, however, and where there is no appearance of a continuing burden, ſupply is granted without this ſurrender. The weekly penſions are ſmall, and do not altogether ſuperſede the neceſſity of charitable aſſiſtance from friends and neighbours. This will appear from the following ſtatement: For the laſt 10 years, the average number of poor upon the roll, has been 148 perſons; the annual expence of whoſe maintenance, has amounted to only

L. 87,

In addition to the above valuable account, tranſmitted by the Reverend Mr Thomſon, the preſent miniſter, it may not be improper to ſubjoin the following ſhort extracts, from a "Deſcription of the pariſh of Melroſe," publiſhed in 1743, by the Reverend Mr Milne, then paſtor of that pariſh.

Abbeys.—The Monaſtery of Old Melroſe was probably founded about the end of the ſixth century. Bede * gives us an account of its ſituation on the bank of the Tweed †, and likewiſe of its abbots. This place was a famous nurſery for learned and religious men; and probably continued till the other one at the preſent Melroſe was founded by King David. The convent of Old Melroſe was incloſed with a ſtone

L. 87, 5s. Until lately, the heritors made a demand of one half of the weekly collections, and allowed the other half to be diſtributed by the kirk-ſeſſion; but conſidering that their terms of meeting are diſtant, and that a great deal of diſtreſs might intervene, which would require inſtant relief, they have now given up the whole collections, to be diſtributed by the ſeſſion. Theſe collections are employed to meet the wants of ſuch as may, through diſeaſe, be reduced to a temporary poverty; to augment the penſions of thoſe upon the heritors roll, if found neceſſary; and if the funds will admit, the heritors ſometimes recommend ſome of their petitioners for a temporary ſupply, to be relieved out of them. For theſe reaſons, there are no beggars in the pariſh,—that nuiſance to ſociety, and oppreſſion upon the public, particularly upon well-diſpoſed people in the lower ranks, who are leſs able to bear it. In no place, indeed, are the poor better attended to, or ſupported at ſo ſmall an expence. Charity is here reduced to a regular ſyſtem of operation, which does not leave its objects to a precarious ſubſiſtence, but ſecures for them a certain well-regulated relief in the day of poverty and diſtreſs; and the objects of it are as happy as their reduced circumſtances will admit.

* The Venerable Bede was born A. D. 673.

† Bede's Hiſtory, IV. 27.

ſtone wall, reaching from the ſouth corner to the weſt corner of the Tweed, where the neck of land is narrow; and the foundations of the wall are ſtill to be ſeen. I do not think there has been any great building about it; for as Bede acquaints us, their churches then were all of oak, and covered with reeds. The ſituation of the place is moſt pleaſant and agreeable, being almoſt ſurrounded by Tweed, and having a fine proſpect towards Gladſwood.

About a mile to the weſt of this on the Tweed, ſtands the village of Newſtead, a place remarkable for another abbey on the eaſt ſide of it, called *Red Abbey-ſteed.*

About half a mile from Newſtead, on the ſame ſouth ſide of the Tweed, ſtands the preſent *Abbey of Melroſe.* It is famous for its monaſtery, which was very large and ſpacious, as appears from the ruins of it yet remaining; one of the moſt magnificent in the kingdom; and continues ſtill to be the admiration of ſtrangers, who, in reſpect of the height and embelliſhment of its columns, with all kind of ſculpture, the beauty of its ſtones, and ſymmetry of its parts, reckon it one of the beſt of the Gothic ſtructures they have ſeen. It was founded by King David in 1136; dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and endowed with large revenues and many immunities, as appears by the charters granted to the abbot and convent, by our kings. The monks were Ciſtertians, and the monaſtery of Melroſe was a mother-church or nurſery for all of that order, in many various and remote regions of Scotland.

The church is built in the form of St John's croſs. The chancel, which is a very ſtately fabric, is ſtill ſtanding; its roof is very curious, and has much of the ſcripture hiſtory upon it. I have taken the meaſure of what is ſtanding of this church, although much of the weſt part is ſo entirely demoliſhed, that we cannot know how far it has reached in that direction. Its juſt length is 258 feet; breadth 137½;

circumference about 94 3; height of the ſouth window 24, breadth 16; height of the eaſt window 34$\frac{1}{2}$, breadth 15$\frac{1}{2}$; height of the ſteeple 75; the ſpire gone. The eaſt window, at which was the great altar, is a beautiful ſtructure; conſiſting of 4 pillars or bars, with a great deal of curious work between them; and on each ſide, a great number of niches for ſtatues. On the top, an old man with a globe in his left hand, reſting on his knee, and a young man on his right; both in a ſitting poſture, with an open crown over their heads. On the north and ſouth of this window, are two others of ſmaller dimenſions. The niches are curiouſly carved, both the pedeſtals and canopies, and on which ſeveral figures of men and animals are curiouſly cut. On the ſouth-eaſt of this church are a great many muſicians admirably cut, with much pleaſantneſs and gaiety in their countenances, accompanied with their various inſtruments. Alſo nuns with their veils; ſome of whom richly dreſſed. The ſouth window is very much admired for its height and curious workmanſhip: Niches are on each ſide and above it, where have been ſtatues of our Saviour and the apoſtles. Beſides, there are many other figures on the eaſt, or on the weſt ſide of this window: Monks curiouſly cut, with their beards, cowls and beads: A cripple on the back of a blind man: Several animals cut very nicely, as boars, greyhounds, lions, monkies and others. There are about 68 niches in whole ſtanding; the ſtatues were only demoliſhed about the 1649.

So far, with reſpect to the outſide of the church. Within, on the north ſide of the croſs are beautiful pillars, and the ſculpture as freſh as if it had been newly cut. On the weſt ſide is a ſtatue of St Peter with a book open, his right hand on it, and two keys hanging on the left. On the ſouth ſide of this ſtatue, is that of St Paul with a ſword. In the middle of the croſs ſtood the ſteeple, a piece of noble architecture,

chitecture, a quarter of it yet ſtanding, but the ſpire gone. The roof of the ſouth ſide of the croſs is ſtill ſtanding, where is a beautiful ſtair-caſe, much admired by ſtrangers, the roof of it winding like a ſnail-cap. There was within the church a vaſt number of fonts curiouſly carved, and where were altars dedicated to various ſaints. In the portion of the church where worſhip is at preſent performed, are two rows of pillars of excellent workmanſhip, eſpecially that to the ſouth-eaſt, which for the fineneſs of it, looks like Flander's lace.

With regard laſtly, to what was in part, or altogether, ſeparated from the body of the church, there was a cloyſter on the north ſide, a part of the walls of which is ſtill remaining; and where may be obſerved pleaſant walks and ſeats, with a great deal of fine flowers nicely cut as lilies, &c. alſo ferns, grapes, houſe-leeks, eſcalops, fir-cones, &c. The door at the north entry of the church is curiouſly emboſſed, and the foliage here, and in ſeveral places of the church, very beautiful. There were alſo here a vaſt many fine buildings within the convent, for the reſidence and ſervice of the abbot and monks, with gardens and other conveniencies; all this incloſed within an high wall, about a mile in circuit. Beſides the high church, there has been a large fine chapel, where the manſe now is, and another houſe adjoining to it, where the foundations of the pillars are ſtill to be ſeen. On the north ſide of this houſe, there has been a curious oratory or private chapel, the foundations of which have been diſcovered this year, and a large ciſtern of one ſtone, with a leaden pipe conveying the water to it.

Camps, &c.—A little to the ſouth of Melroſe are the three *Eildon* hills. The baſe of them may be in compaſs

6 or 7 miles; the height of two of them to the north about 1½ mile. On the top of the north-eaſt hill are plain veſtiges of a Roman camp well fortified, with two foſſes and mounds of earth, more than 1½ mile in circuit, with a large plain near the top of the hill, on which may be ſeen the *prætorium*, or the general's quarter, ſurrounded with many huts. It has all the properties of a well choſen camp, according to the rules of Vegetius. There is a large proſpect from it of all the country; it has many ſprings of good water near it; the ſides of the hill have been covered with wood, and the camp is of that extent, that neither man, beaſt nor baggage could be ſtraitened for room. On the north ſide of the middle hill, Mr Milne ſeems to place a ſecond camp, from which he ſays is a large ditch for 2 miles to the weſt, reaching to another camp on the top of Caldſhielhill. This camp (probably he means, that on the north ſide of the middle hill) has been ſtrongly fortified with a double trench, and the circumvallations of it continued for a good way. This camp, with that called Caſtleſteed, makes almoſt a triangle with the large camp on Eildon hills.

To the S. W. of theſe hills there has been a beautiful military road, raiſed in ſome places high above the ground, and of a conſiderable breadth, with military ſtations in ſome places upon it. In ſome parts it is carried through lakes and marſhes, and has had a communication with the camp at Caldſhiels, and likewiſe with another camp on the north ſide of the Tweed called the Rink.

On the head of the hill, on the ſide of which the village of Gattonſide is founded, north of the Tweed, there has been a large camp. It has a wall around it of ſtone, about half a mile in compaſs. About half a mile from this camp to the eaſt, on the top of the hill, oppoſite to Newſtead, there

there has been a large camp with a deep ditch. It ſeems to have been about 3 quarters of a mile in circumference, and is called the Cheſter-know or Knoll.

Mr Milne deſcribes other camps, ſeveral of them large, and gives an account of other antiquities and particulars referring to this pariſh.

NUM-

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF INNERKIP,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BROWN.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE ſituation ſeems to have given riſe to the name, which is partly Gaelic; *Inner*, by ſome called *Inver*, implies the 'mouth of a river,' which agrees with the ſituation of the church and village; immediately below which, the ſmall river *Kip* empties itſelf into the ſea, or frith of Clyde. This pariſh is bounded by the frith of Clyde upon the W. and N. In length, from E. to W. along the ſhore, it is 7 miles in a ſtraight line; but conſiderably longer, if all the little bays were followed; in breadth, 6 miles. It was much more extenſive two centuries ago, comprehending then the two pariſhes of Greenock.

Climate and Surface.—From ſituation, the climate is rather wet, and rains are frequent and heavy; yet very healthy,

healthy, by means of the ſea-air, which ſeldom allows any fogs or noxious miſts to ſettle down, nor froſt and ſnow to continue long. By this the ſummer heat is alſo moderated to a very deſirable equality. The inhabitants are ſeldom viſited by epidemical diſtempers, or local diſeaſes. The rheumatiſm is indeed complained of, but not generally. Great numbers of children are ſometimes ſweeped off by the ſmall pox. An unconquerable averſion to inoculation, expoſes them at all ages to this diſeaſe, which is very fatal, when of a bad kind. Though there is no inſtance of remarkable longevity, yet there are many of conſiderable age; it is not uncommon to ſee men and women of 80 employed daily in their uſual labour; and one woman is conſiderably above 90. The ſurface of the country, in general, is no leſs pleaſing to the eye, than the ſituation is conducive to health. From the ſhore to the S. E. is a gradual and irregular aſcent, beautifully varied with plains, gentle declivities, and eminences clothed with furze and broom, interſected by ſmall rivers or burns, which are ſometimes loſt in deep glens, ſhaded with wood, and ſometimes water rich and fertile meadows. On one ſide, ſurrounded with lofty mountains, covered with heath; on the other, waſhed by the frith of Clyde, conſtantly crowded with the foreign and coaſting trade to and from Greenock; the towering ſummits of the Iſle of Arran terminate the view to the S. W.

Soil and Agriculture.—The ſoil upon the ſhore is light, ſandy, and of quick vegetation; farther in the country, it is a little wetter, and more inclined to a red gravel. The moor-grounds are covered with heath, and in ſome places afford moſs of a conſiderable depth. More than one half of the pariſh is moor, and a great part of that a common undivided; a conſiderable part natural meadow, and the remainder

remainder arable. But as no meaſurement has been taken, how many acres are of each, cannot be conjectured. From the appearance of the country, it may be ſuppoſed that more land was in tillage 50 years ago than at preſent. Moſt part of the arable, and a great part of the low paſture lands, are incloſed with good ſtone fences, which the proprietor erects, on the tenant paying $7\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* for outlaid money, and on condition he leaves them fencible at the end of his leaſe. Agriculture here has made but ſlow progreſs, and ſtill the improvement of land is little attended to; perhaps for the following reaſons: The ſoil, which is light, will hardly bear the labour requiſite to clear it of weeds; and when put into a ſtate, from which a good crop might be expected, it is eaſily hurt by the ſeverity of dry or wet weather. Allowing the crop to anſwer the expectation of the farmer, the price it brings, is ſeldom a ſufficient compenſation for expenſe and labour; this is owing to the immenſe quantity of grain imported into Greenock, and from which port it is circulated through the country, to a great diſtance, whereby it is kept lower than in moſt inland places. Another thing which impedes agriculture, is, the farmer pays his rent much eaſier from his dairy than his plough; and for his encouragement, he finds a ready market, and good prices for all kinds of produce, grain excepted, in the town above mentioned. In order to favour this mode of farming, great part of the land is thrown into graſs; ſo much only is ploughed, as is barely ſufficient to ſupport the cattle through winter. The method of working land in general, is to reſt it 3 or 4 years, and plough it 2; ſeldom doing any more to it, than what their cattle and manure do. The dung of the cattle is uſed in raiſing barley and potatoes, which are excellent in quality, and frequently conſiderable in quantity; beſides thoſe

conſumed in the pariſh, many bolls are carried to Greenock.

From this method of farming, there are ſome exceptions among the tenants; and eſpecially 2 or 3 heritors, who do the lands they hold in their own hands great juſtice, and are well repaid. Excepting what is done by theſe, agriculture is nearly in the ſame ſtate it was 50 years ago. During many years, the farms have been increaſing in extent, as well as in value, conſequently at preſent much diminiſhed in number. The number of acres in crop cannot well be known. If the ſeaſon be favourable for ploughing, the price of cattle, and the produce of the dairy low, more is thrown into crop than when theſe are otherwiſe. Crops, in general, are but very moderate, as may readily be expected, from the manner of improving, and conſiſt chiefly of oats and a little barley. Rye graſs has been introduced, but is not much followed after. The old Scots plough, drawn by 3 horſes, is moſtly in uſe. Ploughing commonly begins about the middle of March, ſowing the firſt week of April, reaping the end of September, or beginning of October. The farmer generally holds his own plough, where there are no children, or not grown up. As the tillage is not great, the produce is not nearly ſufficient for the inhabitants. Though there are few farms, if any, in the pariſh, that can be called ſtore farms, yet there are 50 or 60 ſcores of ſheep; almoſt one half of theſe are allowed to range in the common moor, during ſummer, and come down to the low grounds in winter. If the price of lands be a proof of value, here they fall nothing below thoſe ſyſtematically improven; when ſold, which is ſeldom, they bring from 40 to 50 years purchaſe. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3177 Scots.*

* *Prices of Labour and Proviſions.*—The expenſe of country labour is at preſent almoſt double of what it was 30 years ago. This is not ſo much

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was then 1590. It may be ſuppoſed, from ſeveral circumſtances, that the number of inhabitants in this pariſh has rather decreaſed. In almoſt every part of the pariſh ruins of dwelling-houſes are ſeen; and the ſmall farms which belonged to theſe, annexed to others. The villages, as might have been expected, have not much increaſed; alſo moſt of the young men, having an inclination for a ſeafaring life, leave this place, and ſettle where they are employed. From theſe reaſons, it is to be conceived, that the inhabitants are not ſo numerous as formerly. From an account taken in the 1792, the number appears to be of families 344; of ſouls 1280. Of theſe, almoſt in each of the villages, Daff and Gourock, is 1-3d; the other third in the country part. Males and females are nearly equal.

There

much owing to the increaſe of labour, as to the decreaſe of hands. Ever ſince ſmall farms and cottages became parts of larger poſſeſſions, the number of hands, who work for hire, has diminiſhed. The effect of this was conſiderably felt formerly, but of late more ſenſibly. The country is now ſo much drained of its uſeful labourers, by the different manufactures, that the farmer can hardly either find ſervants, or afford the high wages. Any advance he has upon the different productions of his farm, with difficulty balances the riſe of rents. A ploughman's wage is from L. 9 to L. 12, with victuals; a woman's, from L. 3 to L. 4; a maſon's, 2 s. a carpenter or houſe-wright, 1 s. 8 d. a-day; a day-labourer, 1 s. 6 d. There are ſome both higher and lower than theſe. The neceſſaries of life, that cannot be brought from a conſiderable diſtance, have greatly increaſed, and are ſtill increaſing, meal excepted. Oat-meal of this country produce, rates commonly from 11 d. to 1 s. 2 d. but ſeldom above 1 s. the peck; beef, from 6 s to 6 s. 6 d. the ſtone; mutton, from 5 d. to 6½ d. the pound; freſh butter, from 10 d. to 1 s. the pound; ſalt butter, 13 s. the ſtone; potatoes, at a medium, 6 d. a peck. White fiſh, haddocks, and cod, new taken, are ſold at 1 d. the pound; ſalmon, 4½ d.

There are under 10 years of age, -	301
Between 10 and 30, — —	326
——— 30 and 50, — —	316
——— 50 and 70, — —	287
——— 70 and 90, — —	49
Above 90, — —	1
	1280

Among theſe, there are in the pariſh, of rope-ſpinners, and employed about that work,	49
Weavers, — —	33
Shoemakers, — — —	9
Wrights, — — —	7
Tailors, — — —	5
Maſons, — — —	4
Employed in herring-fiſhing, —	48
——— in white-fiſhing, — —	14

Beſides theſe, ſeveral go out occaſionally to fiſh whitings, haddocks, cod, &c. who are at other times otherwiſe employed.—Births taken, at an average of 8 years, 27; deaths 23; marriages 9.—There is in the pariſh at preſent 1 ſurgeon.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is 78 bolls of meal, and L. 350 Scots of money. The glebe conſiſts of 4 acres, all arable. Neither ſtipend nor glebe have been augmented theſe 120 years. There are few Seceders in the pariſh. Beſides the pariſh-church, there is a place of worſhip in the village of Gourock. Mr Scott, the late miniſter, ſaw the inconveniency of the inhabitants in that part of the pariſh, and with much perſeverance got a houſe built by ſubſcription, which ſtill remains under the direction

tion of the pariſh miniſter. Sir Michael Stewart, Baronet, of Blackhall, is patron.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks Scots; and the whole amount of his income, as teacher and ſeſſion-clerk, is about L. 16 a-year; for which he teaches Engliſh at 1 s. 4 d.; writing at 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic at 1 s. 8 d. a-quarter. This, with his other perquiſites and ſalary, amounts only to L. 16, and with this he maintains a numerous family. Beſides the parochial ſchool, there is one in the village of Gourock, where the teacher is ſupported by the wages, without either ſalary or houſe. Neither of theſe ſchools are ſo well attended as might be expected, from the number of inhabitants, and the eaſy terms on which education is got.—The poors funds are managed by the ſeſſion, and conſiſt of L. 400 ſtock, beſides the weekly collections. Out of this, a little is allowed to about 34, who are on the roll, conſiſting of thoſe unable to work, and of thoſe incapable to earn what is ſufficient to maintain themſelves and families. They receive from 2 s. to 4 s. 6 d. each a-month. Beſides this, twice a year the ſum of L. 8 or L. 9 is divided among the moſt needy, ſome of whom are not on the liſt. The poor live in their own houſes, and none are allowed to beg; but there are great numbers from other places.

Roads.—The public road, which runs through this pariſh, and leads to Irvine and Ayr, is kept in good repair by the ſtatute labour. John Shaw Stewart, Eſq; of Greenock, ſome years ago altered the line of that part which leads from this to Greenock, conſiſting of above 5 miles, and generouſly executed the whole at his own expenſe, which is of great utility to the county. It is probable, that this, with the croſs roads, which are very bad, will now be much better, by levying, at a certain rate, and applying the money raiſed under the direction of truſtees, agreeable

to

to an act of Parliament obtained this year for that purpoſe. There are no tolls in the pariſh, and only one ferry acroſs the frith of Clyde, which is about 5 miles broad, to Dunoon in Argyleſhire.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are 5 heritors, Sir Michael Stewart, Baronet, of Blackhall, John Shaw Stewart, Eſq; of Greenock, Duncan Darroch, Eſq; of Gourock, John Wallace, Eſq; of Kelly, and Duncan Campbell, Eſq; of Langhouſe. Beſides theſe, there are a great number of ſmall feuars;—two heritors only reſide. Sir Michael Stewart, whoſe reſidence is Ardgowan, is proprietor of the greateſt part of the pariſh. The houſe is delightfully ſituated upon the ſhore, about a mile from the church, and commands a moſt extenſive proſpect of the frith of Clyde. It is large, and built at different times, conſiſting of an old ſquare tower of great antiquity, and a modern dwelling-houſe, ſurrounded with a conſiderable quantity of plantations. The lands round it are well incloſed, and judiciouſly improved. The other reſiding heritor is Duncan Darroch, Eſq; whoſe reſidence is Gourock, pleaſantly ſituated on a large bay.—There are two villages, each of which contain about 1-3d of the inhabitants, as mentioned formerly. Daff, in the barony of Innerkip, Sir Michael Stewart's eſtate, ſtands near the church, is diſtant from Greenock $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and from the village of Largs, 9 miles on the other ſide. The other village is Gourock, on Mr Darroch's eſtate. From ſituation, this place is very convenient for trade, having ſufficient depth of water for veſſels of any burden, and good ſhelter. In this village, a rope-work commenced in the 1777, and ſucceeds well. It employs at preſent 49 people, and manufactures about 165 tons of hemp yearly. The walk is 200 fathoms long, one half of which is covered with a ſlate roof. On the outſide

outſide is a walk for white-work of the ſame length.—In the neighbourhood of this village an attempt was made for coal ſome years ago, which, if ſucceſsful, would have been of great advantage to the country; but meeting with copper ore, the undertakers were diverted from their firſt object. This new diſcovery promiſed well both in richneſs and quantity; but being wrought by a Company, who were chiefly engaged in England, it was ſo managed as to defeat the expectation.—On Sir Michael's eſtate are 3 mills, 2 for grinding corn, and 1 for dreſſing flax. On Mr Darroch's eſtate are 2, 1 for extracting oil from lintſeed, and the other for waſhing materials belonging to the rope-work Company.—There are 18 public-houſes, greateſt part of which might eaſily be wanted; however, it does not appear that they are very hurtful to the morals of the people. Only 2 of theſe have a licence for all kinds of liquors.—During the ſummer months, this place is much frequented for ſea-bathing; a number of houſes are kept moſtly furniſhed on purpoſe, and hired by families from Glaſgow, and other inland places, which is of great advantage to the inhabitants.—The fiſh caught here, are the ſame with thoſe round the weſt coaſt of Scotland; and there are no ſea-fowls, nor land-animals, ſo remarkable as to deſerve particular deſcription.—The inhabitants in general are in eaſy circumſtances, ſober and induſtrious.

NUM-

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF BIRSE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL.)

By the Rev. Mr JOSEPH SMITH.

Name, &c.

THE ancient name of the pariſh is ſaid to have been *Preſs*, meaning in Gaelic a "wood or thicket." Great part of the pariſh was, and is ſtill covered with natural wood, ſuch as fir, birch, aſh, alder, mountain aſh, gean or black cherry, holly, hazel, aſpen, and ſome oaks, &c. Beſides the natural wood, there are ſome thouſand acres incloſed and planted with various foreſt trees, fir, birch, aſh, elm, beech, plane, horſe cheſnut, ſpruce, larix, and willows of all ſorts, &c. &c. all are in a thriving ſtate, and many of them already fit for uſe. The pariſh then takes its name from this circumſtance, namely, its having always produced a deal of fine wood. The name has been greatly corrupted. It ſeems to have been written *Preiſs*, then *Breiſs*, and this is inſcribed on the communion cups about a century ago. In ſome writings it is called *Braſs*, and now

now it obtains the name of *Birſe*. The names of the greater part of the places in the pariſh are evidently derived from the Gaelic language; for example, *Preſbeg*, now *Birſebeg*, "the little buſh;" *Preſmore*, now *Birſemore*, "the large buſh."

Extent and Situation.—Its extent from E. to W. is about 10 meaſured miles and, including that range of the Grampian hills belonging to the pariſh; its extent from the river Dee on the N. towards the S. is in many places nothing leſs. It is indeed narrower towards the eaſt end of the pariſh, but by all who are thoroughly acquainted with its extent, it is deemed equal to a figure of 10 miles ſquare. The pariſh church is diſtant from Aberdeen, the neareſt poſt town, about 27 meaſured miles. It is the moſt ſoutherly pariſh in the county of Aberdeen. With reſpect to the inhabited part of the pariſh, it may be divided into three large ſtraths or diſtricts. The largeſt of which, in the ſouth-eaſt end of the pariſh is called *Feughſide*, (or vulgarly the *Eaſtſide* of the hill, meaning *Corſe Dardar*.) It has the Feugh running through it. It is about 3 miles long and 2 broad. The houſe of Finzean is in the north weſt corner of it, and being ſurrounded on the north and weſt by hills and woods, is remarkably ſheltered and pleaſantly ſituated. Its name *Finzean*, is ſaid by thoſe converſant in the Gaelic language to be deſcriptive of its pleaſant ſituation. The heritor has always reſided. Directly weſt on the banks of the Feugh, and among the Grampian hills is ſituated the *Foreſt* or *Glen Birſe*, partly incloſed and cultivated, and partly in common for paſture. The middle ſtrath or diſtrict is called the *Water*, vulgarly the burn of *Chattie*, as that burn runs through it. It is about 4 miles long and 1 broad. On the ſouth of the burn is Midſtrath, and on the north Ballogie, formerly named Tillyſnaught.

Both are delightfully ſituated, being encircled with hills and woods. The proprietor of Midſtrath has not for ſome time reſided, conſequently the manſion-houſe is almoſt a ruin. The houſe of Ballogie is fitted up with taſte by the proprietor, who reſides. In its neighbourhood, and on the public road that paſſes through the pariſh from E. to W. is the neat little village of Marywell, where they are improving the fields, and building neat ſmall houſes under the auſpices of Mr Innes the proprietor. Directly weſt on the banks of the Chattie is Glenchatt, partly cultivated, and partly ſet apart for paſture. The moſt northerly diſtrict is along the ſouth ſide of the Dee; through it runs the burn of Birſe. In it is Balfour, where a ſmall heritor reſides. The church and manſe are there ſituated, very inconveniently for the greater part of the pariſh. This diſtrict is about 2½ miles long, and 1½ broad. It is vulgarly called the *Six Towns*. The whole pariſh is divided into what was called 24 towns; and in the opinion of ſome ſkilful men, each town may contain from 80 to 85 acres arable. Upon this ſuppoſition, there may be reckoned about 2000 acres and upwards under cultivation, excluſive of the Foreſt, where there are now 120 acres and odds under cultivation. The number of acres under wood in the pariſh may be equal to the number under cultivation. No trees, however, grow in what is called the Foreſt; yet there is reaſon to believe, that it once produced a great deal of various ſorts, particularly holly. In ſome old houſes in the pariſh, ſome wood that grew in the Foreſt ſtill remains; tradition ſays, that the remainder of the wood growing in the Foreſt was conſumed by fire. The neareſt farm to the Foreſt is called Woodend. To the pariſh belong in property, or at leaſt by ſervitude, four foreſts or glens; in all of which, probably wood has been produced, namely Glen-Birſe, Glen-Aven, Glenchatt, and Glenſleudrum.

Surface, Soil and Climate.—The ſurface is uneven, hilly, and even rocky and mountainous. It is beautifully diverſified with hill and dale, wood and water. Many ſpots in it are moſt delightful; they afford the pleaſures of a rural life in abundance, and ſuch as can reliſh theſe pleaſures muſt be highly delighted with the variegated appearance of the country. The ſoil is light and ſharp, ſandy in ſome places, in others a dark brown loam. It is moſtly on a hard and gravelliſh bottom. In a few places the bottom is inclined to clay; when juſtice is done to the ſoil, the produce will ſufficiently reward the huſbandman for his labour and expenſe. The air is pure, and the climate temperate and healthy. On the banks of the Dee ſnow lies not ſo long as in ſome other places. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to the pariſh. Many of the inhabitants arrive at a good old age, as the population-table will evince. Some families ſeem to have their blood tainted with the ſcrofula; ſome complain of rheumatiſm (more frequently indeed than their forefathers), and a few young people die of conſumptions. In general, however, they are a blooming healthy race. Inoculation is practiſed a little with ſucceſs; the ſenſible part of the people do not ſeem averſe from it.

Hills and Moſſes, Birds and Game, &c.—As there are 3 ſtraths or diſtricts of which the pariſh is made up, ſo there are 3 large ridges of hills taking their riſe towards the river Dee, and running in a S. W. direction till they terminate in the heart of the Grampians, of which indeed they are a part. Peter-hill, the White-hill, and Mulbrax, are in the ſouth ridge.—The Ords, the Shooting-greens, (over which the great road leading from the river Dee to the Cairn o'Mount paſſes); Tomcairn, Corſe-Dardar, (over which the public road from E. to W. paſſes); hills of Midſtrath and Arntilly, Lamachip, and Brackenſtaik, are in the mid-

dle

dle ridge. The moſt northerly ridge takes its riſe at Inchbair, and terminates at Cairnferg. On the W. of the pariſh are the hills of Birſemore, Deuchry, and Mount Ganiach, which is the higheſt hill in the pariſh. Indeed, Mount Battach, or the north ſide of it, is claimed as belonging to Birſe. Its height by Garden's map of the county of Kincardine, is 1150 yards above the level of the ſea. Mount Battach is conſiderably higher than Mount Ganiach, which is conjectured to be about 1000 above the level of the ſea. Peter hill and Mulbrax are next in height to Mount Ganiach, and may be rated at 900 yards. Cairnferg, which is a remarkably conſpicuous conical mount, may be about 700 yards. The reſt of the hills fall gradually lower in their reſpective ridges northward and eaſtward, till the ridge enters the pariſh of Strachan, or terminates at the river Dee. There has been no map or diſtinct meaſurement of this pariſh. The height of the hills cannot therefore be exactly ſpecified. In Garden's map, the ſituation of part of this pariſh may be ſeen. All the hills are rocky and covered with heath, interſperſed with paſture, ſtraths and green vallies. There on the Grampian hills our frugal ſwains do literally feed their flocks. The hills produce a variety of herbs, the names and virtues of which we cannot pretend to ſpecify; alſo many ſorts of berries, the blue berry, cranberry, cloudberry; in rocky places, the bramble, raſp, and ſtrawberry of a ſmall ſize. The hills alſo abound with moſs; it is indeed inexhauſtible, but of difficult acceſs. In the moſſes ſituated in the lower grounds of the pariſh are dug up the remains of old oaks, which appear to have been of a prodigious ſize. In the hill moſſes the fir is found, commonly the root, and ſometimes the whole tree, as freſh as if fallen yeſterday, although it has been buried hundreds, perhaps thouſands of years. The oaks are not quite ſo freſh. The hills alſo a-

bound

bound with game of all ſorts, and upon the return of every ſhooting ſeaſon, the keen and active ſportſman frequents our pariſh, to enjoy upon our hills and moors his favourite amuſement *.

Springs and Rivers, &c.—No ſpring or well in the pariſh has acquired fame from its medicinal virtue, yet ſome mineral ſprings are to be found, and have been reſorted to by ſeveral of the inhabitants on account of ſcrofulous, gravelliſh or ſtomachic complaints. On Mount Ganiach there is a well called St Com's well, in honour, probably of the celebrated ſaint of Icolumkil; but concerning this well there is no tradition. The pariſh abounds with fine ſprings or

* In a country ſo hilly, rocky, and woody as this pariſh, there is ſuch a variety of the feathered tribe, as renders it difficult to know the proper names of them all. Among the reſident birds, may be reckoned eagles or earns, (now rare), hawks of all kinds, gledes, owls of all kinds, moorfowl, blackcock, ptarmagan, partridge, heron, wild-duck, teal, ſhelldrake, magpie, raven, crow, jackdaw, the wood-pigeon, the fieldfare, ſkylark, wood-lark, the bountain, goldfinch, the chaffinch, the wren and golden-creſted dut c, the ſparrow, redbreaſt, woodpeckers of the larger and leſſer kinds, thruſh, ſtarling, ſnipe, ouzel, bat, tomtit, common and green linnet, yellow-hammer, blackbird, and the wader, a bird frequenting running water, and many others. The migratory birds are, the woodcock, ſea-magpie, ſwallow, martin, bullfinch, cuckoo, wagtail, ſtonechatter, ſand-lark, red-ſhank, land-rail, dotterel, king's-fiſher, grey and green plover, &c. The bullfinch, wood-lark, golden-creſted wren, and ſome ſay the ſparrow, have only appeared within theſe 20 years. In winter, the ſnow-birds reſort in flocks to the cultivated parts of the pariſh, and diſappear as the year revolves, and the weather turns mild.—The quadrupeds, beſides domeſtic animals, are the red and roe deer. Theſe abound in our plantations, where the hind calves, and brings up her young. Theſe are troubleſome to the huſbandmen. Beſides the common hare, we have the mountain-hare, in winter, white as ſnow; alſo the fox, badger, otter, pole-cat, martin, weaſel, and ermine. The wolf, when in Scotland, had viſited our mountains; for, towards the weſt end of the pariſh, there is a place in the Grampians, ſtill known by the name of the Wolf-Holm.

or wells; and beſides, the ſtreams and rivulets iſſuing from them, it is watered by the Dee on the north; the Aven towards the ſouth; the Feugh, the water or burn of Chattie, and the burn of Birſe, running through the three ſtraths of the pariſh. The Dee abounds with excellent ſalmon, grilſe, ſea trout, ſterlings (here called dowbrecks,) trout and parr, with ſome pikes and freſh water flounders with finnicks. Dee is ſaid to produce pearl ſhells, but pearls have rarely been found. Feugh is the moſt conſiderable river. It alſo produces ſalmon, and moſt of the ſorts of fiſh above mentioned. It would abound with them all, were they not ſtopped by a conſiderable water-fall near its influx into the Dee, oppoſite to Banchoryternan, and which prevents the ſalmon from getting up unleſs when the river is flooded. The Feugh receives Aven before it leaves the pariſh of Birſe and the Dee, when running through the pariſh of Strachar; it is a very rapid river, and often overflows its banks. The Aven, the Chattie and the burn of Birſe, abound with trout of all ſorts, alſo eels. No rivers or rivulets afford the angler better ſport than theſe *.

Agriculture and Produce.—It muſt be confeſſed that agriculture in this country is rather in an imperfect ſtate; many of the people continue rivetted in their prejudices againſt the modern improvements in huſbandry. All, however,

* Towards the ſpawning ſeaſon, ſalmon grilſe, and ſea-trout, come up in great numbers into the rivers and burns, and even into the branches of them. The ſpawning ſeaſon is thought to be from the middle of October to the end of November; during which time fiſhing, which, by the by, is always with the rod or ſpear, is prohibited. We have, however, a ſpecies of ſalmon, called by the country people candavaigs, that frequently do not ſpawn before the month of April or May; theſe, therefore, are in perfection when the others are not. They are groſſer for their length than the common ſalmon, and often (of a large ſize) upwards of 20 or 30 pound weight. They are ſaid to come from the coaſts of Norway.

ever, muſt allow, that theſe improvements have commenced in this pariſh, and that ſome of the tenants have done more in the way of farming to purpoſe, than many of their neighbours in ſeveral places around. Several have upon their poſſeſſion a ſmall limekiln; they purchaſe the limeſtone at ſome of the quarries in the pariſh, and burn it with peat, mixed often with wood, or even with ſome coals from Aberdeen. The lime they lay upon the grounds has much effect. Some however aver, that to lime their ground is to no purpoſe, as, ſay they, it has no effect, becauſe the ground is on limeſtone: Whether this be a juſt remark, or only an excuſe for indolence, is left to the ſkilful farmer to decide; where a ſufficient quantity of lime is allowed, it cannot fail to enſure a crop. Seventy bolls of Midſtrath lime ſlacked, and each boll containing three corn firlots, will be ſufficient for the worſt outfield in the pariſh. When bought at Midſtrath, each boll coſts 1s. 4d. which indeed is very high; but even at that price little can be burned for ſale, as fuel is at ſo great a diſtance. The limeſtone is inexhauſtible, and the lime of an excellent quality. Some are cleaning their ground, by fallowing, by a little green cropping, and by laying it down with artificial graſſes, others are going on in taking 2 or 3 ſucceſſive crops of oats, and 1 of bear, (when they give the ground a little dung), without allowing ſome portions of their ground any reſt in a century. Indeed when the poorer ſort of it is completely exhauſted by ſucceſſive crops, they muſt let it reſt; but for years it is almoſt uſeleſs. Some are going on with ſpirit, incloſing and clearing their ground of ſtones. Others are throwing every impediment in the way of the improver, by trampling down the fences, and by not only neglecting to remove the ſtones from their fields, but even by alleging, that the ſtones are beneficial to the ſoil, and tend to nouriſh the crop. In the eaſt end of the pariſh, where liming is chiefly

ly attended to, it is thought a capital blunder is committed; for the following is the plan they have adopted. They lime, and often at the ſame time, dung part of the worſt of their farm (outfield). They take two ſucceſſive crops of oats, the effect of the lime for the firſt crop is not very perceptible, the ſecond crop is excellent. Bear is ſown for the third crop, and he who did not lay on the dung with the lime, now does it. This crop amply repays the expenſe. It is now humbly ſubmitted to the ſkilful improver, whether they ought not with this crop to ſow it out with artificial graſſes; if they did ſo, they would keep the ground in heart; but inſtead of doing ſo, the greater part take other two crops of oats. Theſe they have very good. Still by this plan, however, and by taking ſo many crops of oats, they exhauſt the ground to a great degree. Any part of their infield which they have cleaned, and had under green crop, they generally lay down with graſſes, and to encourage them to this laudable practice, Mr Farquharſon of Finzean, preſented ſeveral of his tenants with ſome quantity of graſs ſeeds laſt ſpring; the like had been done by Mr Gerard of Midſtrath, in a former year. The diſtinction of outfield and infield ought as much as poſſible to be laid aſide, and equal juſtice ſhould be done to the whole farm, be it ſmall or great. Winter herding ought to be practiſed; but to this, they who are leaſt induſtrious, and have leaſt to care for, are, as may be expected, moſt averſe. The number of acres under cultivation cannot be eaſily aſcertained, they are already rated at about 2200, more might be improved, and certainly have been arable on the hills and moors. Indeed, there might be an addition of ſeveral hundred acres by trenching the baulks or waſte ſlips of ground that in many farms do ſtill abound. Of the above number of acres, we may reckon one-ſixth part in lee or natural graſs. A ſmall proportion is annually

in

in green crop, not above 30 acres, with the like number ſown out with artificial graſſes, crop 1791, independent of the farms in the particular poſſeſſion of the principal reſiding heritors, Finzean and Ballogie. Theſe farms are conſiderably improved, and have been for ſome years in graſs. The preſent proprietors, who lately came to the poſſeſſion of their reſpective eſtates, are now beginning to put them under crop; and Mr Innes of Ballogie takes the lead in improvements in the pariſh. The number of acres mentioned above, in green crop, and laid out in graſs, is excluſive of the heritors farms, which were only begun to be cropped laſt year. It is alſo but doing the tenants juſtice, to mention, that in crop 1792 they had doubled the number of acres under green crop, &c. This circumſtance marks our ſmall, but rapid progreſs of improvement. Oats and bear are the principal part of each crop. Some peaſe, and a little rye, are alſo produced. Potatoes are not raiſed for ſale, being at a diſtance from any market town; but abundance of them are raiſed for the uſe of the inhabitants, and the ſoil produces them remarkably good. The grain is of an excellent quality, the oats yielding more meal, and the bear more ſpirit, than grain produced from a deeper ſoil. In the pariſh a little flax is raiſed; and as the ſoil ſeems to agree with it, a greater quantity will now be raiſed than formerly, when no lint mill was in all this country. The Earl of Aboyne has remedied this inconvenience by erecting one in 1791, in the pariſh of Coul, a few miles to the north of this pariſh. It will greatly accommodate the country, and has conſtant employment already. The pariſh can well ſupply itſelf with proviſions; no wheat indeed is produced, but the people here ordinarily uſe cakes of oat-meal. The lands are rarely let by the acre, a *cumulus* rent is taken for the whole farm, large or ſmall. Some of the land is let at the rate of 15s. or 16s.

the acre; in general 10s. and indeed ſome of it dear enough in its preſent ſtate of 2s. but capable of improvement. The higheſt rent paid by one tenant is about L.60. The current rents of the poſſeſſions are from L. 10 to L. 20, and ſome as low as from L. 3 to L. 5*.

Beſides grain, the pariſh produces a deal of wood which it exports. Numbers of black cattle and ſheep are annually ſold, and taken from our hills and put upon rich paſture; they turn out to great account. Black cattle fetch from L. 2 to L. 7. Sheep are worth from L. 4 to L. 12 the ſcore, ſome few ſell at 14s. each. Horſes are worth from L. 5 to L. 15; and ſome few from L. 15 to L. 25. Some of them alſo are reared in the pariſh. It is famous alſo for producing honey of great richneſs and flavour. In a favourable year a good deal is exported. Two men in the Six Towns exported 100 pints each, in ſummer and autumn 1791. The pint conſiſts of 5 lbs. Amſterdam, and ſells from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d. A little butter and cheeſe is alſo exported. In ſeveral gardens in the pariſh, there is a good number of fruit trees bearing fruit. The crop of apples on one tree in the garden of Midſtrath ſold once for a guinea. The garden of Finzean being fenced both by

* All the tenants plough their grounds, ſome with horſes, ſome with oxen, and ſome with horſes and black-cattle united, and all harneſſed after the manner of horſes. By many the old Scots plough is ſtill uſed, and anſwers beſt in rough ſtony ground. The better ſort, and the active tenant, who has improved his farm a little, have procured ploughs of the new form. Seed time begins about the middle of March, harveſt about the firſt of September. Indeed, for ſeveral years paſt, both have been much later, owing to the cold and uncommonly rainy ſeaſons. On the eſtate of Ballogie, Mr Forbes, the late proprietor, found, and uſed as a manure, a kind of marl, with ſome effect. The death of the heritor prevented the working of it for any time. The preſent proprietor intends to try it again. There is of it, of a reddiſh, bluiſh, and whitiſh colour. How it will turn out, time only will evince.

nature and art from every noxious blaſt, produces apples in ſize and flavour equal perhaps to any in Scotland. Wool, and ſome coarſe woollen cloth manufactured in the pariſh, is alſo exported. Real white wool can hardly be obtained, ſince the introduction of the black-faced ſheep, where wool is neither ſo fine nor ſo white as that of the ſmall breed, which formerly did more abound. This article ſhall be concluded by mentioning, that the Kincardine and Alford farming ſociety have offered premiums for the beſt fleece of wool; alſo for an acre of outfield, upon which 70 bolls ſlacked lime is laid; alſo for an acre under green crop, and laid out next year with artificial graſſes, all within their diſtrict; they have judged well in offering ſmall premiums for one acre, as this will tend to excite emulation among the tenants, even of the leaſt poſſeſſions. The Society "deſerve well of their country *."

Property

* *Prices of Labour, Wages, &c.*—The price of labour is greatly increaſed, from what it was. There are living in the pariſh two old men, (tenants), who, in their younger days, were ſervants, the one at 20 s. and the other at 30 s. a-year. For young men to do the ſame work now, there muſt be paid from L. 4 to L. 5, and from L. 5 to L. 6, with their entertainment, in which they are moſt extravagant, often requiring better entertainment than the tenant can afford to himſelf. Women ſervants have from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s.; and a few houſe ſervants. L. 3; herd-boys, from 12 s. to 20 s. for the ſummer half-year. When the children of the tenant grow up, he employs them. This is his firſt relief. Before, he was much at the mercy of mercileſs menials. A day-labourer, of whom we have few, gets 6 d. and victuals, at ſome work he requires more; for in harveſt, he gets 1 s. and upwards; a wright, 8 d. and lately 10 d.; a tailor, 6 d. and victuals; a maſon, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 9 d. without victuals. The blackſmith works by the piece, and is very extravagant in his demand. The weaver aſks 2½ d. or 3 d. for what was formerly done at 1 d. the ell. Shoes are at an exorbitant rate, triple of what they were 30 years ago. The poorer ſort have much ado to purchaſe that neceſſary article.—The women of the pariſh are chiefly employed in the knitting of ſtockings, or ſpinning of lint-yarn. By the former they earn, when working

Property and Valued Rent.—The landed property of the pariſh (which was church-lands) has undergone ſeveral changes. Gordon of Cluny was once proprietor of upwards of two-thirds of the pariſh. From time to time he ſold a town, or a part of a town, as a purchaſer offered, and as he had occaſion for money. This gave riſe to a great number of proprietors in Birſe, till at laſt the pariſh came

ing on their own account, 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. the week; by the latter, a little more. If working on account of a maſter, they often earn leſs. At three ſtations in the pariſh, wool is given out, and the ſtockings taken in, monthly, by the Aberdeen manufacturers, or their ſervants. At ſeveral ſtations, lint is given out, and the yarn received, by one appointed by the manufacturer. In all ſorts of weather, the hoſier keeps his day punctually, and the poor are ſure of what they have earned. By the induſtry of the wife and his own labour, if in health, the cottager is enabled to bring up his family; and many active women, either by the above employments, or by making, during the ſummer, a piece of coarſe woollen cloth for ſale, greatly aid their huſbands in making up the rent of their poſſeſſions. The eſtabliſhment of theſe factories, as the country people call them, have been a great bleſſing to the country in general.

Price of Proviſions.—This is much regulated by the Aberdeen market. When meal, upon which the people chiefly ſubſiſt, is low priced there, it ſoon becomes ſo here. Grain, in general, is double the price of what it was 30 years ago. During the years 1790 and 1794, meal ſold from 13 s. to 17 s. the boll; (9 ſtone Amſterdam is often given for the boll); bear, from 15 s. to 19 s. the boll. Beef and mutton are ſometimes purchaſed from the Aberdeen market, and ſometimes procured by feeding at home. After counting every coſt, we have meat cheaper, than when brought from Aberdeen. Butter ſells from 6 d. to 8 d. the pound; cheeſe, from 5 s. to 6 s. the ſtone. The pound here conſiſts of 28 ounces Avoirdupois. Eggs, formerly at 1 d. the 14, now ſell at 1½ d. and 2 d. the 12; a chicken, 2 d. and a hen from 6 d. to 8 d.; ſalmon, in its ſeaſon, about 3 d. the pound; any other ſort of fiſh is ſcarce and dear. The neceſſaries of life are at leaſt one half dearer, and articles of luxury more than double, within theſe 40 years. This is a circumſtance greatly againſt ſuch as have ſtationary livings. It muſt be confeſſed, that what were articles of luxury in our hardy forefathers day, are now become articles that are reckoned neceſſaries, as tea.

came into the hands of a few, ſo that there are now only ſix heritors and the church-ſeſſion. Two of the heritors and the church-ſeſſion have a very ſmall property. Land has ſold from 25 to 30 years purchaſe. The wood upon the eſtate often enhances its value. The valued rent is *in cumulo* L. 3139 : 8 : 4 Scots. Two of the principal heritors, and one ſmall heritor reſide.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was then 1126. At the end of the year 1791, by an accurate ſurvey, the population was as follows:

Individuals,	1253	Aged 96,	1
Males,	607	At the reputed age of 100 and odds,	2
Females,	646		
Widowers,	21		
Widows,	59		
Unmarried m. above 20,	121		
——— w. above 18,	167		
——— m. above 50,	5		
——— w. above 50,	13		
Born out of the pariſh,	285		
Of the Eſtabl. Church,	1181		
—— Roman Catholics,	60		
—— Epiſcopalians,	12		
Under 10 years of age,	324		
From 10 to 20,	241		
—— 20 to 30,	192		
—— 30 to 40,	141		
—— 40 to 50,	140		
—— 50 to 60,	84		
—— 60 to 70,	86	Houſes and families,	273
—— 70 to 80,	34		
—— 80 to 90,	8		

No accurate regiſter of baptiſms has been kept ſince the commencement of the odious baptiſm-tax. From the incumbent's private liſt for 3 years after Sept. 2. 1789, when he was ordained miniſter here, there were 120 baptiſms. Marriages from ſaid liſt 8 yearly. No burial regiſter was ever kept. It is conjectured there may be 24 or 27 yearly.

Of

Of theſe there are heritors reſiding and farming,	3
Tenants, - -	112
Small ſubtenants,	72
Smaller ſubtenants,	83
Families of the miniſter and the two ſchool-maſters, - -	3
As above,	273

Of theſe families there are			
38 conſiſt. of	1 individual,		38
36 —— of	2,	-	72
40 —— of	3,	-	120
34 —— of	4,	-	136
27 —— of	5,	-	135
37 —— of	6,	-	222
21 —— of	7,	-	147
20 —— of	8,	-	160
11 —— of	9,	-	99
6 —— of	10,	-	60
2 —— of	12,	-	24
2 —— of	13,	-	26
1 —— of	14,	-	14
Sum total as above,			1253

Which is, at an average, $4\frac{2}{3}\frac{3}{9}$, or nearly $4\frac{2}{3}$ to a family.

Among the tenants, and eſpecially the ſubtenants, are included all the mechanics or tradeſmen, which next ſhall be ſpecified by themſelves as follows:

Wrights and coopers, and 5 apprentices, -	18
Sawers and wrights,	4
Maſons, - -	3
Slaters, - -	2
Quarriers of limeſtone,	2
Merchants or retailers,	5
Travelling pedlars,	4
Weavers, and 4 apprent.	10
Tailors, and 3 apprent.	10
Shoemakers, -	3
Blackſmiths, and 1 appr.	5
Meal millers, -	6
Gardeners, and 1 apprent.	3
Ferryman at Inchbair,	1
Sheriff-officers, -	2
Day-labourers, -	12
Men ſerv. above 18 years,	56
Female ditto, ditto,	55
Houſe or family ſervants, about - -	8

None of the tenants own children are numbered among the ſervants, though they often do the work of the farm.

There are in the pariſh, 3 large lime kilns and quarries.

32 ſmall lime kilns on the poſſeſſion of the tenants, and even ſubtenants.

Two-thirds of theſe are on Finzean's eſtate, for the multure is not paid in kind, but converted.

Ploughs, of ſome ſort or other, - - 120

Carts, about - 150

40 years ago there was not one.

A few ſwine.

Bee-hives kept through the winter of 1791 and 1792, about - - 300

In a favourable year (for 1792 was the reverſe), theſe might produce from 400 to 600 more during the next ſummer; and moſt of theſe be exported.

Horſes, ſome of them of a year old, - 325

Black cattle, do. do. 1539

Sheep, - - 6530

Goats, about - 150

No waggons.—No chaiſes or carriages at preſent; formerly there uſed to be two carriages.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The King is patron. The church was built in 1779, at a conſiderable expenſe, and is a moſt ſubſtantial and commodious edifice, ſuperior to moſt, and inferior to few places of worſhip in the country. The ſtipend is L. 50 money, 16 bolls of meal, at 9 ſtone; 8 bolls of bear, with L. 2 : 15 : $6\frac{3}{12}$, communion-element money. The glebe is ſcarcely legal; but part of it, particularly the garden, is valuable. The incumbent is accommodated with a farm, otherwiſe the glebe and offices would not render the ſettlement very convenient. The manſe, for years, has been as inſufficient as any in the country. The ſum of L. 269 is allowed for giving it a thorough repair, and for building a good addition, which, if properly applied, and the work ſufficiently executed, muſt render the manſe abundantly commodious.

Poor.—The church-ſeſſion became proprietors of a piece of land, upwards of a century ago, which yields from L. 4 to L. 5 yearly. Dr Gilbert Ramſay, late of the iſland of Barbadoes, mortified, in 1732, for the behoof of the poor, L. 500, from which they have had intereſt at 5 *per cent.* The late Robert Farquharſon of Finzean, mortified 600 merks: L. 20 were left by the late Iſaac Robertſon of Grenada, in 1789. As yet the ſeſſion has only recovered L. 15 of that legacy. With this ſum, the ſeſſion have L. 125 lent caſh, at 4½ *per cent.* There is ſtill due, beſides a conſiderable ſum loſt, the ſum of from L. 40 to L. 50, a debt, which it is to be hoped, will in time be recovered. The weekly collections at preſent amount to L. 9 or L. 10 annually. Ten years ago they were not more than a third of that ſum. The fines of delinquents, which are not rigorouſly exacted, and ſome ſmall payments for the mort-cloth, are ſtill to be added. Such being the funds deſtined for the ſupport of the poor, it is hardly to be wondered, that ſeveral put in a claim, eſpecially as the beſt tenant ſometimes in a pariſh, is not aſhamed to have his father, mother, or near relation, on the roll, which amounted here to 50 at laſt diſtribution; however, not above a third of theſe receive ſupply, unleſs at the two general diſtributions of the intereſt of Dr Ramſay's mortification. Few of the poor are altogether unable to provide for themſelves; many are houſekeepers in indigent circumſtances; ſeveral widows and young families. To theſe, to the aged, and the infirm, we give occaſional relief; to ſome we allow 8s. a-quarter. We allow 8s. for an interment. None are allowed to be in ſtraits, and almoſt none belonging to the pariſh go about and beg; yet of ſtrolling beggars we have our ſhare. In ſummer 1783, part of the money laid out at intereſt was taken up, and meal bought with it for the relief of the indigent. Crop 1782 was by no means ſo deficient

cient in this pariſh as in many others, yet meal ſold from L. 1, 1 s. to L. 1, 5 s. the boll. Grain ripens pretty early in many places on the banks of the Dee.

Schools.—There is a parochial ſchool, to which belongs the uſual trifling ſalary of 100 merks. The perquiſites of the ſchoolmaſter, as ſeſſion-clerk, are poorly paid, particularly ſince the commencement of that odious and unproductive tax impoſed on baptiſms, &c. The conſequence is, that few childrens names are regiſtered. Till the people be relieved of this tax, and till even ſome plan be deviſed to compel a regular regiſtration of every baptiſm, marriage, and burial, no exact ſtatiſtical account of any pariſh from a public regiſter can ever be obtained; no compariſon can ever be made of the ſtate of a pariſh at different periods, with ſufficient accuracy. There are great chaſms in the regiſters of this pariſh. It might have a good effect, were the regiſters of every pariſh regularly called for and examined by the preſbytery annually. The baptiſm-tax, &c. is not only unpopular, but hurtful to a uſeful claſs of men, the ſchoolmaſters, who are uſually the ſeſſion-clerks. Many, to ſecure the ſmall triſle of dues that remain, agree to pay the tax themſelves; ſo that, in thoſe inſtances, the clerk loſes more than the Revenue gains. The number of the ſcholars at the pariſh ſchool is about 20 in ſummer, and upwards of 30 in winter. The ſchool-fees are as low as in any pariſh. The teacher cannot make above L. 10 a-year. Shall we hope that the period is not far diſtant when this uſeful body of men will be befriended by Government, and ſufficient ſalaries appointed for them? Dr Ramſay, above mentioned, mortified alſo L. 500 for the ſupport of a free ſchool in the eaſt end of this pariſh. There is a good ſchool-houſe, but no fund for its ſupport. There is a glebe of about 6 acres. The place is in the gift of Sir Alexander Ramſay, Bart. patron of all

Dr

Dr Ramſay's mortifications. The number of ſcholars that attend is, for the winter ſeaſon, when the ſchoolmaſter teaches by or along with a depute, from 20 to 30 and upwards; during all the reſt of the year none. The place is well ſituated for an academy, and might be made to turn to much account to the maſter and the public. The ſchools of this pariſh have been in repute. Every ſchool will be ſo or not, as it happens to be taught by one, who is not only a man of moderate abilities, but who gives attendance, and adds perſeverance. Without theſe, what do abilities in any ſtation avail? In ſome corners of the pariſh, they hire young men to teach for the winter ſeaſon.

Character and Size of the People.—They are active and induſtrious, ſupporting themſelves and family comfortably, and ſeem in general contented with their lot. At church, and at all public occaſions, they are clean and decent; punctual in their attendance on public worſhip, and the ordinances of religion, though many of them are at a great diſtance from church; far more expenſive in their mode of dreſs and living than their forefathers; but can afford it:—"All is the gift of induſtry." They are fond of ſocial and convivial meetings; yet leſs addicted to drinking than they were ſome years ago. Indeed the young people ſquander much of their caſh and their time in frequenting markets, marriages, and other merry meetings; ſo that often they have not a great deal to begin with when they take up houſe, notwithſtanding their extravagant wages. On theſe occaſions they often hurt their morals, and render themſelves unfit for the duties of their ſtations. Both men and women are of the middling ſize; few men above 5 feet 10 inches; many of a lower ſtature, and theſe the ableſt bodied. They are ſhrewd and lively, ſlender and hardy; differing conſiderably in their make from the people on

the ſouth ſide of the Grampians. They are hoſpitable on all occaſions; but though remarkably ſo to ſtrangers, they are not fond of them ſettling among them. They ſhow no particular fondneſs for, nor, if their country need it, any particular averſion to the military or ſeafaring life; ſome of them have betaken themſelves to both, and 3 Chelſea penſioners reſide in the pariſh. The faſhionable vices of the town are unknown among them. Some years ago, 1 low-ſpirited wretch finiſhed his life; this excepted, there has been no other ſuicide. No perſon has been baniſhed or capitally convicted, ſo far as is known to the incumbent. Few in the pariſh have been bred to letters, yet none are illiterate. The Engliſh or Scotch language is univerſally ſpoken; a few inhabiting the foreſt underſtand the Gaelic, but theſe came originally from the upper part of the country.

Roads and Bridges.—The principal roads in the pariſh, are the great road from the Cairn o'Mount, which enters this pariſh at the Bridge of Whiteſtone, a mile north from the Inn of Cutties Hillock, and leads northward to the Dee at Inchbair. This road is in excellent repair, owing chiefly to the exertions of the patriotic Sir Alexander Ramſay, Bart. Another road paſſes through the greater part of the pariſh, from the Ferry, over the Dee at Aboyne, to the Bridge of Whiteſtone. This, and the other roads in the pariſh, were made, and are kept in repair by the ſtatute-labour, which is exacted in kind, but in a very remiſs manner. The roads conſequently are in ſome places, particularly in the eaſt end of the pariſh, ſhamefully bad. In winter, and wet ſeaſons, theſe are moſt uncomfortable. We have certainly excellent materials for roads; and if even the rate of 1 s. 6 d. fixed by law, were levied, and properly laid out, (as is done in a neighbouring pariſh), certainly our roads could ſoon be rendered comfortable. Turnpikes are quite

quite unknown here, and the reſort on our roads is too little for the expenſe of them. Dr Ramſay, above mentioned, built a bridge of five arches over the Feugh at Whiteſtone. It accommodates the public very well, being on the great ſouth and north road. There is no bridge over the Chattie. One over it is greatly wanted, below Marywell, and alſo below Inverchatt. There is a bridge over the Burn of Birſe, nigh the church. But in no place is a bridge ſo much wanted, nor could one be built that would accommodate this pariſh, and the public in general, ſo much as at Pot-arch, over the Dee, near Inchbair. The great ſouth and north road paſſes the Dee there. This road is greatly frequented, and is uſed by the military, being much nearer from Edinburgh to Fort George, than along the coaſt. During this very ſeaſon (1792), the military had occaſion to uſe this road repeatedly; once going north, to quell the riots in Roſs-ſhire; a ſecond time, in going from Fort George, on account of the diſturbances in Dundee. The Dee is a rapid river, always inconvenient, often dangerous and impaſſable. Had the latter been the caſe on the above emergencies, what might the conſequences have been? Beſides, there is no other place on all this rapid river, where a bridge could be erected at ſo little expenſe, and at the ſame time be of ſuch public utility. Nature has pointed out the ſpot where it ought to be. At Pot-arch, leſs than L. 1500 would do more to accommodate the public, than L. 5000 would do almoſt any where elſe over a river of the ſame magnitude. It is ſaid that Dr Ramſay meant alſo to build a bridge over the Dee, at Pot-arch, had he not been deterred from the undertaking, by the extravagant eſtimate of an unſkilful architect. A plan of this bridge, which is ſo much wanted, is in the Houſe of Finzean; and had the late Haughton been ſpared for ſome years, it is ſaid ſome means would have been deviſed

viſed to have got the plan executed. Though former attempts to get a bridge erected over the Dee at Pot-arch, have repeatedly proved abortive, we ſhall ſtill hope that ſoon ſome public ſpirited character may be found, who will ſtrive to ſee the attempt crowned with ſucceſs. Subſcriptions could be obtained to ſome amount, but ſtill it is to be feared that public aid would be abſolutely neceſſary. Before concluding this article, it deſerves to be mentioned, that a road is planned, and begun to be made, through the weſt end of this pariſh, over the Grampians. It will paſs through Glen Chatt, the Foreſt, and Gleneſk, and be 15 miles nearer from a great part of this country, to the county of Angus, &c. than by the Cairn or Mount Road. It will greatly accommodate the traveller and trader, particularly drovers and dealers in cattle.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—One great advantage that this pariſh enjoys, is its abounding with limeſtone, which is to be found in many places on or near the ſurface. The beſt is at Midſtrath and Ballogie. From theſe quarries, the tenants are chiefly ſupplied with the limeſtone which they burn at home. The greateſt number of hands is employed at the Earl of Aboyne's lime-works at Birſe Moor. It is, however, much againſt the improver, that fuel is ſo difficult to be obtained. The greater part of the ſummer ſeaſon muſt be ſpent in procuring that neceſſary article, conſequently little of it can be ſpared to burn the limeſtone. Finding, however, the great benefit of lime as a manure, amazing exertions are made to procure fuel, (to burn the limeſtone), not only by cutting cart-roads along the ſteep hills, to the moſſes, and by purchaſing wood, but even by going at times to Aberdeen for coals, which pay the high duty, and muſt be brought acroſs the Dee. In this caſe, the want of a bridge at Port-

arch

arch is grievouſly felt. This would give more eaſy acceſs to the Aberdeen market, and for coals. Our diſtance from market, and the difficulty of procuring manure, is much againſt us. Aberdeen is not only the neareſt market and manufacturing town, but even the neareſt poſt-town; a circumſtance much againſt this country. It is in our favour that we have plenty of moſs of the beſt ſort, though not of eaſy acceſs, as peat and turf is the fuel uſed in the pariſh, with wood, particularly bruſhwood. That our country abounds with different ſorts of timber, and all of an excellent quality, is certainly an advantage. We have alſo plenty of granite-ſtone, and the beſt materials for building; and it is but juſtice to the tenants, to ſay that they are every day erecting better houſes than they formerly occupied. But whatever our local advantages be, there is one great diſadvantage under which we labour, that often counteracts and outweighs them all, namely, the difficulty of procuring, pleaſing, and paying labouring ſervants. This evil is ſeverely felt by all ranks in this country, and, if matters do not ſoon take a favourable turn, muſt effectually ruin the tenant. Conſidering the inſolence and behaviour of ſervants in general, words muſt fail to deſcribe the evil. Another evil that is pretty ſeverely felt, is the ſervitude at the mill. To be liable for the ſixteenth peck there, of all the produce, beſides pretty high payment for grinding, over and above the multure, muſt check the ardour of the improver. The multure, at ſome of the mills, is converted; at others, the grievance exiſts; and conſequently, in that quarter of the pariſh, improvement of land does ſcarcely exiſt. The payment of either certain handfulls or diſhfulls of meal to the miller for his work, is not very convenient. The equitable way, is certainly to weigh the quantity paid, and this ought to be fixed by law. It is alſo ſubmitted to the public, whether any perſon has a

title

title to exact half multure out of the produce of a miniſter's glebe. This is a practice prevalent here, and in ſome other pariſhes. The ſervices paid by the tenant to the landlord, are few, in compariſon of what they were. They all perform a carriage to Aberdeen, or like diſtance, yearly; ſome of them are bound to provide a certain quantity of peats yearly; they alſo yearly, or occaſionally, bring wood, ſlate, and lime to the heritor. The carriage of materials for church, manſe, ſchool, and mill, is performed by them. It muſt be obſerved, however, that the tenants do not fail in exacting ſervices of various kinds from the ſubtenants; and what is worſe, in ſeveral places take their ſmall poſſeſſions often from them, after they have carefully improved them. The cottager muſt be at the nod of his maſter, perhaps the menial is leſs ſo.

Antiquities and Eminent Men.—On the hill, about a mile north-eaſt of Finzean, bearing the name of Corſe Dardar, there is a place marked near the way-ſide with a long granite ſtone, which lately ſtood erect, but now broken down. It is reported that King Dardanus, the 20th from Fergus I. was there put to death, when flying from his rebellious ſubjects. At a ſmall diſtance from this ſpot, are two cairns, one very large, and in the form of an oblong; they are now covered by the woods of Finzean. On the top of the hill, named Cairn Ferg, there is a large cairn of a conical ſhape. Some ſay it has been erected in memory of an eminent perſon. Others, that the ancient inhabitants reſorted thither and worſhipped the ſun, even before the commencement of Druidiſm. If however, Druidiſm were the firſt religion in this iſland, which muſt have been the caſe, if peopled from Gaul, perhaps this might have been a place where they burned fire, or performed ſome rite of their religion. In various places there are ſeveral huge

ſtones lying above the ground; a few near Inchbair ſeem to have been a Druidical temple. In the year 1779, when they were razing the foundation of the old church, there was found a hill ſtone near ſix feet long, with a two-handed long ſword, a hatchet and a croſs carved upon it. The ſtone is now ſet up erect in the wall of the church-yard. In the Foreſt or Glenbirſe, there is ſtanding a good part of a caſtle, which was built by Gordon of Cluny, for a hunting ſeat, and which is now by the tenant converted into a ſheep-cot. In ſeveral places, particularly between Marywell and the church, there appears a narrow ſlip of ground that has been fenced on both ſides by ſtone walls, ſaid to be built by order of King Kenneth III. for confining the deer which he wiſhed to drive from this country, to ſtock a deer park which he built in the brae of the Mearns, near his palace of Kincardine. The wall of that park, it is ſaid, can ſtill be traced, and is called the Deers-dike. In this pariſh part of the Kirktown farm is called Deer-hillock. At Eaſter-Clune there are the ſmall remains of a ſquare tower, ſaid to have been built by Archbiſhop Roſs, who was proprietor of the place. It is univerſally agreed, that Eaſter-Clune was a (hunting or) ſummer-ſeat of one of the biſhops of Scotland, ſome ſay, St Andrew's, others, Dunkeld.—Beſides the archbiſhop or biſhop to whom the tower belonged, and who was a native of Birſe, the pariſh has given birth to ſome others whoſe names deſerve to be mentioned. Dr Gilbert Ramſay, late Rector of Chriſt's church, in the iſland of Barbadoes, was a native of this pariſh. He mortified, under the patronage of Sir Alexander Ramſay of Balmain, Bart. and his heirs, L. 2000 Sterling, the intereſt for the ſupport of 4 ſtudents of divinity; L. 1200, the intereſt for the ſupport of 4 ſtudents of philoſophy; and L. 1000, the intereſt to ſupport a profeſſor of the Oriental languages, all at the Mariſchal college. His donations to this pariſh are already mentioned.

mentioned.—Dr Alexander Garden, late of Charleſtown, South Carolina, eminent for his ſkill as a phyſician, celebrated alſo for his learning and polite converſation as a gentleman. He was an American refugee, and cauſed a marble monument, with an inſcription in Latin, truly claſſical, be erected in the front of the church wall here, to the memory of the late worthy Mr Alexander Garden, his father, who was upwards of 50 years miniſter of this pariſh, and who died upwards of 90 years of age.—Dr Roſe of Birſebeg, was alſo an American refugee.—Mr William Roſe of Newmill, was many years at the head of a flouriſhing academy which he had near London.—The famous George Roſe, Eſq; of the treaſury, is grandſon to the late Donald Roſe of Weſter-Clune. Here we note, that many of the name of Roſs or Roſe, were proprietors once in Birſe; of the name we have only now a few tenants.—Captain David Ochterlounie, mortally wounded at the firſt attack made by General Wolfe on Quebec, when the Britiſh were forced to retreat, and the Captain taken. So much was he the favourite of the celebrated Wolfe, that he ſent to the town to the Marquis de Montcalm, deſiring that particular care ſhould be taken of the Captain. He died in two days.—A living character might be added, Dr William Farquharſon, phyſician in Edinburgh, famous for his addreſs in curing cancerous complaints.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—A rocky ſubſtance appears from Tillyfruſky to the river Feugh, which ſeems to have been in a fuſible ſtate, and reſembles the lava emitted by a volcano. It is near the ſurface of the ground.—There are two, ſometimes three ale-houſes in the pariſh; the traveller has occaſion to call at them, and the people do ſtill tranſact too much of their buſineſs in theſe and houſes of a ſimilar ſort.—None ever died for want.—In 1791, one family emigrated

grated to Philadelphia, not for want of employment, or for any want whatever, but rather out of fondneſs of change, and having a friend before them. An unmarried woman remained; ſhe regrets that ſhe did not go with the reſt, for, ſays ſhe, "Troubles are only beginning here, but they are over there." We truſt ſhe is not inſpired with the gift of prophecy. The largeſt plantations, and greateſt number of trees of all ſorts are certainly on the eſtate of Finzean, yet, among many others, two remarkable trees grow, the one at Midſtrath, and the other at Ballogie, which have deſervedly been reſorted to and admired by the curious. The one at Midſtrath is aſh, and meaſures upwards of 20 feet in circumference at the ground, from 17 to 19 feet little above the ground. Its branches are as large as ordinary trees. It is vulgarly called the *Maiden* of *Midſtrath*. The tree at Ballogie is birch of the weeping ſort; ſome think it 100 feet high, others only from 70 to 80. It has a ſtraight ſtem of 50 feet and upwards, and 5 feet in circumference through the whole. Many young trees of the above kind on the burn of Chattie, are in a fair way of equalling ſoon this beautiful one *.

* To the north-eaſt of Finzean, is a hill called the Gallow Hill. Another is near to Ballogie. There the Barons of old, who held their eſtates with power of pit and gallows, put to death any of their tenants or dependents, who were ſo unfortunate as to fall under their diſpleaſure. What bleſſed days do we now enjoy, in compariſon of theſe? How thankful to God, and loyal to the King, ought we therefore to be? Our caſe has been meliorated, and, by a wiſe Legiſlature, will, by degrees, be ſo ſtill. Were ſome of the duty taken off the leather and the malt, this would greatly eaſe the ſubject in this corner. Were the landlords to grant longer leaſes, and be pleaſed to take a moderate converſion for the multure paid to the mill, this would encourage the tenants to improve, and would wean them from the old unproductive mode of farming. Were allowance given them for the ſtone-foot of their houſes, as well as for the timber, which, by the by, is done in the land of Ballogie, this would induce them

them to be at ſome expenſe in building neat houſes, witneſs what is already done in Monywell. Were allowance given for incloſing, (the pariſh, for the moſt part, being unincloſed), and were the incloſures protected by winter herding, to which the heritor ſhould bind them, this would be patronizing the improver, and be productive of the moſt beneficial effects. Were care taken by all to improve the morals of themſelves, and all around them, how happy and proſperous might our land and people be!—As to the ſtate of a remote corner of this pariſh, called the Foreſt, or Glen-Birſe, in the year 1724, the firſt inhabitant went to reſide, and cultivate the ground there; now there are 120 acres and odds under cultivation, yielding upwards of L. 60 rent. There are 147 inhabitants. Being removed from the means of education, their children and young people, in number 37, are in great want of a teacher. In a neighbouring glen, called Glenchatt, there are near 50 inhabitants; formerly only a few families. By the increaſe in theſe glens, perhaps the population of the pariſh is equal to what it was 30 or 40 years ago; though, in many places, there are fewer inhabitants, owing to the union of farms, &c. Application has been made lately to the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, in behalf of the above glens, that a teacher may be nominated for them; and we truſt the Society will lend a favourable ear to our petition.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH of KINGOLDRUM,

(County of Forfar, Synod of Angus and Mearns, Presbytery of Meigle.)

By the Rev. Mr James Badenach.

Name, Extent, Surface, Climate, &c.

THE origin of the name ſeems to be uncertain. It is ſaid to be derived from the Gaelic, and to ſignify, "The Town between the Drums." This ſignification is, at leaſt, expreſſive of the local ſituation of the kirk and kirktown, which ſtand between two drums or eminences, with the burn of Cromby running between them. The pariſh is about 7 miles from N. to S. and 2¼ from E. to W. It is properly a hilly or mountainous diſtrict, with ſmall rivulets between the hills, in which there is good angling for trout. In the north part of the pariſh the mountains riſe to a conſiderable height, eſpecially Catlaw, whoſe elevation above the level of the ſea, has been found, by barometrical menſuration, to be 2264 feet, and at the baſe of which, on the N.E. there is a chalybeate ſpring, uſeful in weakneſſes.

weakneſſes. On Catlaw, and the adjoining mountains, partly green, and partly heath, there is excellent paſture for ſheep; and Catlaw mutton is remarkable for its ſuperior delicacy and flavour. There is but little flat land; almoſt the whole of it ſloping gently with a north or ſouth expoſure. The climate is nearly the ſame throughout the whole pariſh, and any variation is owing to expoſure and local ſituation. Along the braes of Balfour and Baldovie, lying to the ſouth, and ſheltered with a riſing ground on the north, the air is rather milder and more temperate than in any other part of the pariſh; and both ſpring and harveſt ſomewhat earlier. The air, however, in general is cold and ſharp, yet extremely healthy; and to the ſalubrity of the air and the water, it may probably be owing that agues never make their appearance. The prevalent diſeaſes are fevers, colds, ſore throats, and conſumptions.

Soil, Produce, and Rent.—The ſoil is various: In ſome places it is a kind of clay, cold and wet; in others a light ſand; but in general is a rich black mould. The principal crops are barley and oats. Of late years wheat has been raiſed in particular places, eſpecially in the braes of Kenny and Baldovie, with great ſucceſs. Turnip and potatoes, clover and rye-graſs, are common in every part of this pariſh. A ſmall quantity of peaſe is ſown chiefly for fodder, and on every farm more or leſs flax-ſeed, for domeſtic uſes. More grain is raiſed than is conſumed by the inhabitants; a part of their barley is bought by a diſtiller in the pariſh, and the remainder, with the oats, wheat, and meal, are carried to the Dundee and the Kirrimuir markets. Both ſpring and harveſt are later than in the vale of Strathmore, to the ſouth, owing to more frequent ſhowers among the hills, and to a keener air in the narrow openings between

them, than in a wide extended vale. The ſoil is in moſt places of excellent quality, and climate only is wanting to render it extremely productive. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2555 Scots; the real rent about L. 1600 Sterling. Moſt of the leaſes were granted ſeveral years ago, and many of them are ſaid to be extremely reaſonable. The arable acre is from 5s. to 18s. and the number of arable acres is between 3000 and 4000. There is no map of the pariſh, nor can the waſte land and rough paſture be aſcertained with any degree of preciſion. There are 8 heritors, 1 of whom reſides conſtantly, and another occaſionally.

Improvements.—Within the laſt 20 years conſiderable improvements have been made. The ſituation is favourable for manure, from being in the immediate vicinity of an inexhauſtible fund of ſhell marl, a part of which lies in the pariſh, and belongs to the proprietor of Balfour, from which his own tenants have privilege, by their leaſes, to any quantity which their improvements require. Beſides laying out the fields in a regular manner, fallowing, and marling, ſeveral farms have been incloſed with ſubſtantial ſtone fences, an improvement which greatly enhances their value. Planting likewiſe is going on in different places, and in particular upon the eſtate of Captain Wedderburn of Pearſie, where, beſides a conſiderable portion of the arable land being incloſed, there are plantations to a great extent. A good deal of attention has alſo been paid to the breeding of horſes and cattle, as well for ſale as for private uſe, and the breed of both has of late years been much improved. Upon the eſtate of Pearſie, cattle, bred out of ſmall highland cows, have ariſen, from the richneſs of the paſture to ſuch a ſize, as to bring L. 10, L. 12, and ſometimes

times L. 15 a head, for turnip-feeding, or heavy carriages.

Antiquities.—On a hill called the *Schurroch*, to the weſtward of the church, there are in three different places, equally diſtant from each other, ſeveral large ſtones, erected in a circular form, called here Druds altars, which is evidently a corruption of Druids altars, and ſhows them to have been places of Pagan worſhip. Upon the top of another hill, called Catlaw, already mentioned, which bounds this pariſh on the north, there is a very large cairn of ſtones, in a circular form alſo; but whether uſed as a place of worſhip, or of obſervation, from whence ſignals were given to the country, on the approach of an enemy, is uncertain. The caſtle of Balfour, formerly the principal reſidence of Ogilvy of Balfour, an ancient family, and a deſcendent of the family of Airly, has ſome claim to antiquity. As there is no date to be ſeen upon any part of the walls, which are ſtill ſtanding, it is not generally known in what year it was built. The ſtructure is evidently in the Gothic ſtyle; and, from facts connected with it, about which there is no uncertainty, muſt be upwards of 200 years old, and might probably have been erected about the middle of the 16th century. The family of Balfour is ſunk into the family of Fotheringham, and Colonel Fotheringham of Pourie, by the female line, is proprietor of the eſtate of Balfour, the moſt extenſive, and the beſt land of any in the pariſh.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was then 780. The population is diminiſhing. The preſent number is about 600. Of whom are 18 or 20, who are Epiſcopalians; and 2 men and 1 woman, who are Seceders. The number of families is 129.

The

The births, marriages, and deaths, as inſerted in the pariſh-regiſter for the laſt 10 years, are as under:

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1781	18	6	14
1782	15	0	9
1783	18	7	16
1784	13	5	10
1785	18	5	10
1786	9	8	12
1787	15	5	8
1788	17	3	14
1789	16	8	9
1790	16	7	12
1791	15	10	11

No manufactures are carried on in the pariſh. There are but few tradeſmen of any deſcription, and theſe few are employed for parochial purpoſes; almoſt all the reſt of the inhabitants being engaged in the operations of huſbandry. The decreaſe of population, as above ſtated, is owing partly to the union of farms, and partly to tradeſmen and ſmaller tenants removing to villages and ſea-port towns, from intereſt or convenience. In conſequence of this decreaſe, together with the flouriſhing ſtate of manufactures in Angus, the wages of labouring ſervants have ariſen in a *quadruple ratio*, within the laſt 40 years *.

Stipend,

* For example, the beſt ploughman in this pariſh, and perhaps in the Braes of Angus, could have been hired about 40 years ago, for L. 2, or L. 2, 5s. in the year; whereas good ploughmen are receiving at preſent, from L. 8 to L. 9 The riſe in the wages of women ſervants, day labourers, and harveſt reapers, is in the ſame proportion; and, for the laſt ten years, has been more rapid than in any period of the ſame extent, within the 40. The farmer is however enabled to meet this advance of the price of

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ bolls victual, and L. 22 : 8 : 3 $\frac{6}{12}$ money, beſides a manſe and glebe of about 4 acres. The church was originally a parſonage, belonging to the Abbey of Arbroath; and the greater part of the preſent ſtipend is payable from abbey-lands in that neighbourhood. Towards the end of the 12th, or in the beginning of the 13th century, a donation of the pariſh was made to the abbey by Sir Allan Durward of Lentrathen, and this donation is ſaid to have been confirmed by a charter from the Hoſtiary of Scotland, of date 1253. From the time of the donation by Sir Allan Durward, until ſome years after the middle of the 16th century, the lands of Kingoldrum continued in the poſſeſſion of the Abbey, and about the year 1565, the greater part of them is ſaid to have been feued *cum decimis incluſis*. The burden of the ſtipend continued ſtill to fall upon the Abbey, and after the erection of the Abbey into a temporal lordſhip, it devolved upon the titular of the tithes. The conſequence of which was, that, by the decreet of proviſion, dated in the year 1635, more than one half of the preſent ſtipend was allocated upon abbey-lands in the neighbourhood of Arbroath, from which it continues to be payable to the miniſter of Kingoldrum till this day.—In a pariſh in which there is no village, and ſcarce any houſeholders who have not ſome employment adequate to their ſuſtenance, there cannot be many who ſtand in need of alms. The number at preſent upon the poors roll amounts only to 5; all of whom

of labour upon theſe grounds, that fewer ſervants are neceſſary, and more work is performed by the ſame number of ſervants, than in any former period; becauſe a third, or certainly leſs than a half of the ſame farm yields better grain, and a greater quantity of it, than the whole did 30 or 40 years ago; and becauſe his grain, his horſes, and his cattle, his poultry, his butter, and his cheeſe, are brought to a better, and for the moſt part to a ready-money market.

whom are heads of families, and receive a weekly allowance. Beſides collections in the church on the Sundays, there is a conſiderable fund belonging to the poor, the intereſt of which, together with the weekly collections, is ſufficient for every purpoſe of parochial charity. In the year 1782, the year in which the preſent incumbent was ordained, it does not appear that the number of poor increaſed, and the only difference between that and other years, ſeems to have been a more liberal diſburſement to ſuch as were already upon the roll.

Manners, &c.—Plainneſs of manners and honeſty in their dealings, characterize the inhabitants of this diſtrict. In their ſeveral occupations they are induſtrious, and at the ſame time carry on their buſineſs without noiſe and without feuds. Many of them are in eaſy circumſtances, and all live within their income. Their ſtature is about the middle ſize; their food plain, and they poſſeſs all the ſpirit and activity of Highlanders. In profeſſion they are Preſbyterians, and well attached to the family on the throne. If their zeal is temperate, it is not the leſs real; want of enthuſiaſm being no proof of indifference, but, on the contrary, of ſoundneſs in principle. Whether the pariſh has produced any eminent men, either in ſcience or in arms, is uncertain; it is ſaid, however, to have given birth to a famous actreſs on the Engliſh ſtage.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF ABERNYTE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES ADAMSON.

Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.

ABERNYTE is evidently of Gaelic origin, referring to the situation of the village, near the confluence of two rivulets, one of which had probably obtained the name of Nyte. It is nearly equally distant from the towns of Perth and Dundee; and is entirely situated in those hills that rise gradually from the Carse of Gowrie, to the top of the ridge of Dunsinnan. The highest point of which, called King's seat, is 1050 feet above the level of the sea, and is in this parish. The most cultivated part of the parish lies 700 or 800 feet lower, and is distant from the frith of Tay in a right line about 3 miles. This parish forms a kind of irregular oval, becoming very narrow at each end; its greatest length little more than 3 miles, its greatest breadth about 2; the valley, about half a mile in length, in which the village is situated, and the braes on the sides of it, are of a light, dry, fertile soil, lying upon a bed of coarse

coarſe gravel, or rather rotten moor-ſtone. The grounds higher up, of a deep, looſe, poor ſoil, and partly of mortar, or coarſe till, on a bed of wet gravel. Toward the tops of the hills the ſoil is thin and rocky, producing little but coarſe graſs, mixed with heath. The number of acres in the pariſh cannot be accurately aſcertained, but is eſtimated at 1600.

Heritors and Rent.—The pariſh is divided among 4 heritors, 1 of whom poſſeſſes more than half of it; none of them reſide. The valued rent is L. 1126 : 13 : 4 Scots, and the real rent about L. 830 Sterling. The farms are let either at a fixed ſum for the whole farm, or at a certain value the acre; ſo that the rent of different kinds of ſoil cannot be accurately ſtated, every farm containing ſome portion of hill or moor ground. The valley in which the village and church ſtand, is let at L. 2 Sterling the acre, being divided into ſmall poſſeſſions.

Climate, Diſeaſes.—The air, as in other hill countries, is dry and cold; ſeed time and harveſt, later than in the low grounds of the Carſe of Gowrie. Oats and peaſe are ſown from the end of March to the middle of April; potatoes and flax in the end of April; barley from the 1ſt to the end of May; turnips in the beginning of July; wheat from the end of September to the middle of November. Wheat is generally reaped about the end of Auguſt; the harveſt of the other crops ſucceeds ſoon after. In the higher and mooriſh part of the pariſh, it is often the end of November before all is got in. No epidemic diſeaſes have been remarkable for their ravages in this pariſh, except thoſe common every where among children. The people have very lately begun to permit inoculation for the ſmall pox. About 40 years ago, ſome people entertained an idea, that the hill country

country was leſs healthy than the low wet land of the Carſe. The reverſe is now undoubtedly the fact here; for ſome years paſt in the ſpring, a ruſh fever has viſited the low grounds on each ſide of the hills, viz. The Carſe and Strathmore, and carried off numbers; very few, however, of the inhabitants of this pariſh were infected, and none died. Of epidemic diſeaſes, it may be remarked, that agues, which ſome years ago appeared in great numbers, both in high and low grounds, have now entirely vaniſhed. This has been attributed to the draining of wet lands, and more nouriſhing diet of the people. I have been aſſured, that 30 years ago, if a farmer in the ſpring wanted 4 of his cottagers for any piece of work, he generally ordered 6, knowing the probability that ſome of them, before the work could be finiſhed, would be rendered unfit for labour, by an attack of the ague. Rheumatiſms, called emphatically the *pains*, prevail in this diſtrict, as in moſt places of Scotland. The moſt general diſeaſe, however, in this diſtrict, and particularly in this pariſh, is ſcrofula; not a family of moſt of the indigenous inhabitants of the lower ranks is free from it. Some labourers in this pariſh are at preſent deprived by it of the power of earning their ſubſiſtence. This evil ſeems rather to be on the increaſe, from the careleſsneſs of the people themſelves, and the intermarriages of the unſound with the healthy.

Population.—According to the return made to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls was then 258. The population, though now nearly the ſame as at the beginning of the century, has decreaſed conſiderably within theſe 20 years. The number of inhabitants, on 1ſt January 1792, was 345; of examinable perſons, *i. e.* above 8 years of age, 276.

Births.

	Births.			Marriages.	Deaths.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1782	6	8	14	5	4
1783	5	2	7	3	3
1784	7	6	13	9	13
1785	6	6	12	4	8
1786	3	9	12	8	6
1787	3	8	11	12	6
1788	7	3	10	10	4
1789	11	5	16	6	8
1790	8	4	12	4	5
1791	7	6	13	2	12
Total,	63	57	120	70	69
Average,			12	7	7

The marriages are of perſons not couples.

The great number of deaths in 1784 and 1791, was owing to the natural ſmall pox.—The average number of births, at the beginning of the century, is 11.5. At that period, the regiſter of marriages and deaths is very inaccurate; I have therefore taken no average of them. The whole number of houſes at preſent is 73; ſo that the number to a family is 4.7. The proportion of births to the whole number, is - - 1 in 28.75
of deaths, - - 1 in 49
of marriages, - 1 in 49.2
To aſcertain the population at the beginning of the century, we may take 12 : 345 :: 11.5 : 330.6. It appears that the method mentioned for aſcertaining the real ſtate of population, of multiplying births by 26, and deaths by 36, would give an inaccurate ſtate of the numbers of this pa-

riſh.

rish. It is, however, to be remarked, that children born dead, or who die before they are baptized, are neither recorded in the register of births nor deaths.

	Births.			Marriages.	Deaths.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1760	8	9	17	5	8
1761	9	4	13	7	13
1762	10	6	16	12	11
1763	6	10	16	8	8
1764	9	7	16	4	18
1765	6	7	13	9	7
1766	10	10	20	7	9
1767	9	10	19	10	10
1768	5	2	7	9	13
1769	12	8	20	2	10
Total,	84	73	127	73	107
Average,			15.7		10.7

To ascertain the population, we may take 12 : 345 :: 15.7 : 451.3. The examination-roll was 362. Therefore 276 : 345 :: 362 : 456.8. It appears then that this has decreased at least 100. To confirm this account, it may be added that two villages, which then consisted of 60 houses, have now only 30; that another, which had 8 or 9, has now only one; though, to compensate this loss in part, some new houses have lately been built in different situations. Depopulation was produced here, by the same means which brought it about in other places, the expulsion of cottagers. Their disuse, however, arose here from a cause different from the common one; in general, it proceeded from the enlargement of farms, and junction of several

veral into one. Here, by the diminution and ſeparation of farms. Previous to 1769, the whole eſtate of Abernyte, which is more than half the pariſh, was let to four farmers, who poſſeſſed their arable lands in the old ſtate of run-ridge, and held their graſs in common. A diviſion was then made, and the eſtate ſplit into five farms of a larger kind, and 8 or 10 of ſmaller dimenſions. The tenants of this laſt order, being generally manufacturers, with large families, managed their little farms without the aſſiſtance of any ſervants. And the others preferred unmarried ſervants, who, living in the houſe, were conſtantly under their eye, to cottagers; who having families at home, were ſuppoſed to pay more attention to them than was conſiſtent with their maſter's intereſt. Another cauſe that has affected population in ſome degree, is the non-reſidence of ſome farmers, and the incloſing and turning into graſs a large farm, which has now upon it neither farmer nor ſervant. In a large diſtrict the operation of theſe cauſes would be ſcarce felt; but in a ſmall pariſh like this, their effects are more conſpicuous. There is ſcarce a place in the pariſh now that deſerves the name of a village. Three hamlets contain among them 41 houſes. The other houſes are ſcattered through the pariſh; many of them ſtand ſingly, a few of them in pairs or greater numbers. All the inhabitants are natives of Scotland. There are 88 married perſons; 13 widows and 3 widowers; males above 8 years, 126; females, 150; males below 8, 39; females, 30. Farmers who have no other occupation, 7; their ſervants, 18; ſervants of farmers not reſiding, 7; wrights, 6; turner, 1; cooper, 1; weavers, 17; tailor, 1; ſhoemakers, 2; brewers, 2; butcher, 1; flaxdreſſers, 2; thatcher, 1; ſmiths, 3; corn-millers, 3; flax-millers, 5; carters, 2; labourers, 6.

Agriculture,

Agriculture, &c.—Very conſiderable improvements have taken place in this pariſh within theſe 20 or 30 years. One of them I already hinted at, the aboliſhing the run-ridge ſyſtem. The inconveniencies of the old ſyſtem, and its influence in retarding improvement, are very obvious. But indeed the genius of the country at that time was little directed to this important object. Proprietors farming their own lands made as little progreſs as the oppreſſed tenant. About 20 years ago, a new ſpirit ſeemed to ariſe in all this part of the country. Improvements took place every where. Certain circumſtances in the ſituation of this pariſh retarded their progreſs among us for ſome years. One of the moſt powerful of theſe circumſtances, was the ſhort leaſes given to the tenants. Many farms were held only by the year. This, however, was lately remedied in ſome degree, and leaſes for 19 years granted through all the pariſh. Improvement followed of courſe, furze and broom were grubbed up on the hills, and the land ploughed for the firſt time; bogs were drained, and paſture and outfield grounds brought into more perfect cultivation. There is ſtill much outfield ground in the higher part of the pariſh. One farm is divided into 15 acres infield, and 125 outfield, beſides moor grounds. The means of improvement here are green crops, particularly artificial graſſes, fallowing and lime. A little marl was uſed ſome years ago, but it is now all exhauſted; within a convenient diſtance, lime is preferred as a more ſtimulating manure, while it is leſs pernicious to the ſoil, marl having been found to exhauſt the ground very completely in a ſhort time. Lime is procured from Polgavie, a harbour on the Tay, about 4 miles diſtant. It is brought chiefly from the frith of Forth and Sunderland, and ſome ſmall quantities from Newburgh, on the other ſide of the Tay. It is purchaſed at the harbour at the following prices: Newburgh, the boll barley meaſure,

ſure, 2 s. 3 d.; Sunderland, ſame meaſure, 2 s. 4 d.; Forth, wheat meaſure, 1 s. 6 d. The general allowance the acre, 25 bolls barley meaſure, or 34 of wheat meaſure. Lime is laid on with a crop of wheat or barley. The manner of ploughing uniformly is with two horſes and one man; the plough is the common Engliſh. No cattle are uſed in huſbandry in any part of the pariſh. The number of ploughs is 31, of carts 35. No rotation of crops can be ſaid to be obſerved in this pariſh. They endeavour to have wheat every 4th year, for which they prepare the ground by fallow, peaſe, potatoes, or by a half fallow after flax. The quantity of grain produced cannot be ſtated with preciſion. Number of acres ſown with wheat about 70; peaſe 20; potatoes 12 or 14; flax 16; turnip 14; graſs 70; barley about 120; oats is the principal crop, but it is impoſſible to ſtate the number of acres, as that varies every year as the ſeaſon may ſuit for breaking up outfield grounds. Little barley is ſown in outfield, and bear is not cultivated. Various ſpecies of wheat have been introduced here from the Carſe, but the Scots white wheat is chiefly cultivated, having from its hardneſs been found moſt ſuited to the climate. The oats uſed are the common white, a few parcels of black and grey in the outfields, and ſome early Dutch in rich ſoils. Several experiments have been made with other kinds of early oats, with larger grains, but none have turned out ſo profitable as theſe, which often produce 10 bolls the acre. The general produce of an acre may be eſtimated, of wheat, barley and infield oats, about 7 bolls each; outfield oats 4; peaſe 3. Peaſe are not ſown for the crop, but merely as a mean of melioration. The kind commonly uſed is an early black. Beans are very ſeldom attempted. Flax produces 25 ſtones the acre; quantity ſown is 10 pecks the acre. The ſeed is generally ſaved; though little of it is fit for ſowing again, it brings about 1 s. the peck for the oil-

mills. It is to be obſerved, that the firlot, both barley and wheat, is a Scotch pint larger than the ſtandard. This may be in ſome degree owing to a privilege poſſeſſed by the burgh of Dundee, of taking a ladleful from every boll delivered in the town or at the harbour.—About 80 young cattle are reared annually, which are ſold at the age of 2 or 3 years. Very few are fed in the pariſh. Eight or 10 young horſes are annually bred. The number of horſes is 86; of milk cows 122; the cattle here are of a ſmall breed, from 15 to 30 ſtone; there are now no ſheep kept; within theſe 40 years, there were two conſiderable flocks, whoſe walks have been converted into tillage, or occupied by black cattle, to which our coarſe paſture is better adapted*.

Manufactures, Wages, Prices, &c.—From the ſtate of the cultivation of the pariſh, it is evident, that numbers of the people are employed in agriculture. The manufacture of coarſe linen alſo employs a conſiderable proportion, though the number of weavers is now greatly leſſened, the deſtruction of cottages having chiefly affected this claſs of people. The kinds manufactured here are coarſe ſhirting and harn or packſheet. This ſtuff ſells from 3½d. to 4½d. the yard. An ordinary weaver is able to manufacture from

* While the improvement of land in general has been pretty well attended to, one branch of it, of importance both to the pleaſure and healthy ſubſiſtence of the artiſan, has been almoſt entirely neglected, viz. gardening. In the gardens even of the farmers, the only vegetables raiſed are kail and potatoes, and ſometimes a few cabbages. In the cottager's yard, the laſt is entirely omitted; though they are all fond of, and conſume great quantities of the onion tribe, they never think of cultivating a ſingle plant of them. The kail uſed here is a coarſe hardy red ſpecies, which ſeems peculiar to the country.—No minerals have been diſcovered, nor are there almoſt any ſtones fit for building; to which may be attributed, in ſome degree, the miſerable hovels in which the people live, and the few incloſures that have yet been made.

from 20 to 30 yards a day. In the parish are 3 mills, 2 for corn, and 1 for flax. One of the mills only has thirlage, which is not very extensive, nor are the multures heavy, amounting on *insucken* or grain thirled to a 15th part of the meal produced, on *outsucken*, to a 20th. Flax is scutched at 18 d. the stone. On a small stream called Tidyad, which separates this parish from Longforgan, there are, within the space of a mile, 9 mills, 4 of which are for flax, 2 others within the same space were lately pulled down, as they stood within a piece of ground laying out for pleasure ground *.

Living

* The wages in this district are, for a labourer, 8 d. or 9 d. with his victuals; from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. without; when engaged by the season for threshing, 9 d. the boll. There is yet only one threshing-mill in the parish. Wages of a wright, 1 s. 4 d.; of a tailor, 8 d. with victuals. Outwork is generally done by the piece. Wages of a man servant, from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year; provisions to those who do not eat in the house, 16 pound of oat-meal the week, and 6 d. for milk, or a cow among two or three; of women servants, from L. 3 to L. 3, 10 s. which are not paid wholly in money, but partly in certain perquisites called bountiths. Women not engaged in service, are employed in spinning yarn for linens and thread. For spinning, they receive from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 5 d. the spindle, of which they spin a half one the day. It appears from Boetius, that linen was very early a considerable manufacture at Dundee, and it still continues the staple of this country. A woman's hire for weeding, is 5 d. with victuals, or 8 d. without; in harvest, 9 d. and 10 d.; in harvest, a man's 1 s. The common practice is to hire for a whole harvest, when a man receives from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s.; a woman, from 15 s. to 18 s. A harvest lasts from 3 to 5 weeks. In the Carse, where the harvest is earlier, and of shorter duration, they have frequently finished before we begin here. Hence it is no uncommon thing for a person to reap two harvests, and in the course of 5 or 6 weeks to earn, a man L. 2, 10 s. and a woman L. 1, 10 s. The provisions for reapers uniformly in this country, are bread and ale for dinner; they are allowed somewhat more than a pound of oat-bread, and 3 mutchkins of ale.—The prices of provisions have been doubled here within these 20 years. Butchers meat is from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound; a fowl, 8 d.; eggs, from 3 d. to 5 d.; butter, from 7 d. to 10 d. the pound; cheese, from

Living of the People.—No luxurious mode of living has yet obtained among any claſs in this pariſh. To the farmer, the farm or the pariſh ſupplies almoſt every dainty except ſugar and tea. Seldom any ſpirit is uſed but whiſky. The wages earned by labourers, compared with the price of proviſions, point out that the rearing of a family cannot be attended with great difficulty. There has not been an inſtance of a family applying for relief to the ſeſſion when the parents were in health. The ſtaple proviſion among the labouring claſs is here, as in almoſt all Scotland, oat-meal. Very little meal of peaſe or barley is now eaten, while wheat flour is daily coming more into uſe. Every peaſant poſſeſſes a milk cow, which, if he rent no land, coſts about L. 1, 10 s. a-year. Great part of this claſs occupy an acre or two of land, and thus ſupply themſelves with milk at leſs perceptible expenſe. From Auguſt to April, potatoes in a great meaſure are ſubſtituted for oat-meal, to which they add a little ſalt-meat. In ſpring and ſummer they ſcarce taſte butcher-meat, except a little unfed veal, which ſells from 1½ d. to 2 d. the pound. Since ſo much attention was paid to breeding cattle, this article of proviſion is become ſcarcer. Tea and ſugar are little uſed by this claſs of people, though they are daily becoming more faſhionable. Their chief luxuries are ſnuff, tobacco and whiſky; the uſe of whiſky has become very great. In this ſmall pariſh there are two licenſed, beſides ſome private

from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. the ſtone. The price of wheat is commonly about 6 d. or 1 s. above, and barley 1 s. below the Haddington market. Oat-meal from 10 d. to 1 s. 1 d the peck. The price of grain from this country, in the Canal and other markets, to which it is exported, has been much hurt of late by the injudicious practice among ſome buyers, of mixing in the ſame cargo the fine large full grain of low rich ſoils, with the lean light ſtuff from the hills. This pariſh raiſes a great deal more proviſion than ſerves itſelf. The overplus is diſpoſed of in the markets of Perth, Cupar in Angus, and Dundee, chiefly in the laſt.

vate retailers. It has not, however, produced hitherto any very ſenſible alteration on the conſtitution and morals of the people. Perhaps, in a hill country, and where, by the permiſſion of ſmall ſtills, there is little temptation to adulterate the ſpirit, its effects may be leſs deleterious. The uſe of tobacco may almoſt be ſaid to be exceſſive, eſpecially among the female ſex; there is ſcarce a young woman, by the time ſhe has been taught to ſpin, but has alſo learnt to ſmoke. Smoking ſeems to have been introduced here as an antidote to rheumatiſm and ague; the favourable alteration, however, with reſpect to theſe diſeaſes, has produced only a greater avidity for this indulgence. Fuel is not an expenſive article. In ſummer the peaſantry burn only broom and furze, which they frequently have for the cutting, at all times for a ſmall price. The light lands in the hills, after being a year or two out of tillage, are over-run with broom. Indeed, about 40 years ago, when the exceſſive badneſs of the roads rendered the tranſportation of fuel difficult, it was reckoned no inconſiderable improvement to ſow out light lands with broom for fuel. In winter they burn turf and coals, which laſt ſell at Polgavie from 3 s. 6 d. to 4 s. the boll, of 800 wt. We have no peats. Coals are found the cheapeſt fuel; but the badneſs of the roads renders the carriage difficult. Hitherto the roads in this pariſh, being a ſmall one, and having no reſident heritor, have been much neglected. Now that the principal roads are making by tolls, it is to be hoped, that the croſs roads will be attended to, without which this great improvement will be of no uſe to the hill country. To render the conveyance of coal and lime more eaſy, it was lately propoſed to cut a canal from the Tay to the foot of the hills about Baledgarno, about half a mile below this. This uſeful project, however, ſeems at preſent to be dropt. A canal would undoubtedly be of

great advantage to this diſtrict, to the town of Cupar in Angus, and to great part of the back country, where they are obliged to fetch their coal and lime from Perth or Dundee, at a much greater diſtance than the head of the intended canal would be. The little expenſe that would be incurred in cutting a canal through a country almoſt perfectly level, would very ſoon be repaid by a trifling duty.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The living conſiſts of 27 bolls of barley, 2 of wheat, and 4 of oat-meal, and L. 365 Scots. Part of the ſtipend is paid out of certain funds belonging to the Cathedral of Dunkeld. A grant for L. 42 was procured from the Crown in 1744, to be divided among the miniſters of Dunkeld, Bervie and Abernyte; but from the manner in which the money is collected, they are able to realize only about 8 guineas each. The whole ſtipend may be worth L. 62. The glebe conſiſts of about 10 acres, one half of which is rocky paſture ground. The King is patron.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is only 100 merks Scots, with a houſe and garden. The ſcholars may amount to 30. The fees are, for reading, 1 s. for writing, arithmetic and latin, 1 s. 6 d.; the whole living, including ſeſſion-clerk's emoluments, does not amount to L. 15 a-year.—The average number of poor maintained by the pariſh is 3 or 4. The fund for ſupporting them ariſes from contributions on Sundays, and ſome ſmall fees for the uſe of the pall, &c. The annual amount of the collections and fees is about L. 13. This fund is more than ſufficient for the maintenance of the poor, and has been accumulating for ſeveral years paſt. No perſon belonging to the pariſh is permitted to beg. The poor, in general, earn ſome part of their own ſubſiſtence, though there are occaſionally ſome whoſe whole ſupport muſt be derived from the

the pariſh. It ſhould be obſerved, that the whole of the fund cannot be laid out upon the poor; every ſeſſion muſt give ſome ſalary, however ſmall, to their clerk, beadle, &c. It is much to be wiſhed, that ſeſſions could afford to give more than they uſually do to their clerk, who, in all country pariſhes, is alſo the ſchoolmaſter, as the landed proprietors in Scotland ſeem determined to oppoſe the juſt claims of this moſt uſeful body of men to ſome increaſe of ſalary *.

Character

* In 1782-3, this pariſh ſhared with the reſt of the country, in the lateneſs and ſcantineſs of the crops. But the ſeſſion's fund was found ſufficient for the additional claims then made upon them, and this pariſh declined accepting any of the Government bounty given to the North of Scotland; though ſome of the more opulent pariſhes in the neighbourhood claimed their ſhare. The year 1740-1 ſeems, from all tradition, to have been more diſtreſſing to the poor than 1782-3. The country itſelf produced a much ſmaller quantity of grain. That moſt uſeful vegetable, potato, was unknown; manufactures were in a much leſs flouriſhing ſtate; and cattle, the ſtaple commodity of this country, at that time bore no price; a cow or young ox, now worth L. 5 Sterling, ſelling then for L. 10 or L. 12 Scots. It appears, from tradition, and our ſeſſion record, that much of the peoples diſtreſs here, aroſe from want of employment; which diſabled them from purchaſing meal, though ſold at a lower price than in 1783. The heritors of this pariſh, according to a general order of the county, met twice, to conſider the ſtate of the poor, and of the fund for their ſupport. The ſeſſion's fund was found adequate to the relief of the neceſſitous, during the whole of that ſevere ſeaſon. This fund they expended in purchaſing oat-meal, which they diſtributed according to the wants of families, allowing 8 pound the week to young perſons, and thoſe unable to work. "They appointed alſo lint to be bought, and given un- "to thoſe women that are *capable* of ſpinning, that they may *partly* work "for their own livelihood." I have quoted theſe words of the record, becauſe they evince, either that the art of ſpinning was not univerſally practiſed, or that ſome number had been diſabled from working. The firſt is moſt likely. This extract ſhows alſo the low ſtate of the manufacture at that time. A woman is now able not only to earn her ſubſiſtence by ſpinning, but to ſave money. The flax was then bought, that they might *partly* work for their livelihood. Yarn then ſold for leſs than the ſpinning

Character of the People.—All the inhabitants belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 1 Unitarian, 1 family of Epiſcopals, and 1 of Baptiſts. There are few diſtricts in Scotland that have been leſs diſturbed by religious diſſenſions than the Carſe of Gowrie. From Perth to the extremity of the county towards Dundee, a populous diſtrict of 18 miles in length, and 5 or 6 in breadth, there are but 2 meeting houſes for ſeparatiſts, each of which has but a ſmall flock. The inhabitants of this diſtrict were much reproached by the zealots of laſt century, for their ſupineneſs and carleſſneſs about their controverſies; though the people here are moderate, they are not juſtly reproached with inattention to religion; in general they attend its ſervices well. The people are induſtrious and peaceable, though unrefined in their manners. Few have been known to inliſt in the army, fewer have entered into the navy, none belonging

ning of it now coſts. Wheels for two hands, now univerſally uſed in this country, were not then introduced. Wheels of any kind, indeed were little uſed. The rock and ſpindle were the only inſtruments for manufacturing yarn.—Another circumſtance, in the record, points out the great ſtraits to which the people were reduced. It is well known what zeal the people of Scotland at that time cheriſhed for a ſtrict obſervation of the Sabbath; yet, ſix or ſeven of the people having, in the beginning of harveſt, got in ſome early parcels of grain, united in ſetting the mill a-going, that they might have meal for immediate uſe. The ſeſſion were under the neceſſity of taking cogniſance of this breach of the Lord's day. And the miller having ſtated to them, "that he never ſet on the mill on "the Lord's day, but for the behoof of ſuch people as repreſented to him "that they could get *neither meal to buy nor borrow, and had none*;" and the people alſo having declared that they were in abſolute want, the ſeſſion found them not deſerving of cenſure. Among this group of culprits, was Mr Alexander Nicol, at that time ſchoolmaſter of this pariſh. He, at that time, was much regarded as a poet in this corner, and ſuffered the proverbial lot of that unfortunate race. He publiſhed two ſmall volumes, chiefly in the Scottiſh dialect. The firſt called Nature without Art, and the other the Rural Muſe. He was afterwards tranſlated to Collace.

belonging to this parish has ever been the subject of a criminal trial. One person only has emigrated to America. There is no record of any murder having happened in the parish; tradition mentions 1 suicide about 50 years ago. Belief in the power of spells and charms still prevails here in a great degree; they attribute power to them only in internal disorders, and some chronical diseases. A knowledge of them is confined to a few families. The recourse of the people to remedies of this kind is less to be wondered at, as they are always administered gratuitously, and many of them are at a distance from a regular practitioner in physic. It must be a considerable time before every species of superstition be eradicated from the minds of people, who consider every thing as sacred that has been sanctioned by the belief of their fathers.

Curiosities and Antiquities.—There is a water fall at the head of a den, whose depth is about 50 or 60 feet perpendicular. This den continues for about half a mile, when it loses itself in the Carse of Gowrie, at the village of Baledgarno, in the parish of Inchture. In this den Mr Gray, some years ago, attempted to open a copper-mine; but though he found some ore, it was not judged worth working. On the edge of this den, King Edgar of Scotland built a castle, to overawe a powerful body of robbers, who then infested the country. No vestige of the building now remains: a farm-house, built upon the site, still retains the name of the castle. Upon the top of a hill, called Glennylaw, are two cairns; and a few years ago there was another in the glebe, under which a few bones were found. These are said to have been raised in consequence of a battle between two powerful families, the Grays of Foulis and the Boyds of Pitkindie, in this parish, in which the latter were victorious. On the same hill is one of those circles,

called Druidical, conſiſting now only of ſeven ſtones. And in Stockmuir, about a mile from this one, there is another of nine ſtones; both have conſiſted of more; three or four have been taken from the firſt not long ago. In a few years, there will be no veſtige of either. This laſt is ſituated juſt at the foot of Dunſinnan Hill, on which was the reſidence of the famous Macbeth. The ſite of his caſtle was admirably choſen for a place of defence, being a conical riſing on the weſt end of the hill, almoſt inacceſſible, except on one ſide. The excellence of its ſituation had before pointed it out to Kenneth III. and other Kings, as a ſecure place of reſidence. The ſite of the caſtle is within the pariſh of Collace.—Upon the top of King's-ſeat, another part of the ſame hill, in this pariſh, there is the ruin of a circular incloſure, ſimilar to Macbeth's caſtle, but much ſmaller. This, as it commanded a more extenſive proſpect than the caſtle itſelf, taking in beſide a vaſt extent of country, great part of the ſea-coaſt, from the mouth of the frith of Forth to the South Eſk, probably was a watch-tower or out-poſt; and, from this circumſtance, had received its name. So prevalent is the notion, that all great atchievements in former times, were performed by men of ſuperior ſize and ſtrength, that Macbeth's caſtle, though the hiſtory of it is ſo well known, is called by no other name, among the vulgar, than the Giants Houſe.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF BIRNIE,

(COUNTY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF ELGIN.)

By the Rev. Mr JOSEPH ANDERSON.

Name, Extent, &c.

THIS parish was named *Brenuth* about the beginning of the 13th century: A name probably derived from *Brae-nut*, *i. e.* "High land abounding in nuts;" for many hazle trees once grew upon the sides of the hills and banks of the rivulets, and the general appearance of the parish is hilly. The natives pronounce it *Burn-nigh*, *i. e.* "A village near the burn or river." This etymology is descriptive enough of the particular place now called *Birnie*. The remotest house is 7 miles from Elgin, where the post goes thrice east and west every week. The figure of the parish is irregular, but comes nearest to an oval shape; the distance from the N. to the S. extremity being about 5 miles, and from the E. to the W. about 2.

Surface and Soil.—The greatest part of the surface consisting of several high hills covered with heath, makes in general

neral a bleak rugged appearance; the cultivated ſoil, however, in the valleys, and on the ſides of hills, and the ſeveral falls of water in the rocky channel of the rivulets, have formed ſome beautifully diverſified ſcenes. The uncultivated ſoil conſiſts of moor and peat moſs, with ſome interjacent plots of green paſture. The arable land in general is ſandy, ſhallow, ſtony and ſteep, lying either on a bed of rock, or of compacted gravel. Some fields contiguous to the Loſſie, conſiſt of loam either upon a clayiſh or ſandy bed. Several plots of a moſſy and moory nature are to be found both among the high and low lands.

Rivulets, &c.—The pariſh is adorned with the three rivulets of Lennock, Barden and Ruſhcroock, which flow into the river Loſſie. The Loſſie taking its riſe in the pariſh of Edinkillie, and gliding through Dallas, begins at its confluence with the burn of Lennock, to run by part of the weſt ſide, and then through the north end of this pariſh, and after a courſe of about 18 miles from its origin to its mouth, flows into the ſea at the harbour of Loſſie-mouth. The river abounds in burn trouts and eels. Some ſalmon, finnacs *, and white trouts ſwim up the river about Lammas, which give fine diverſion to the angler. The moſt remarkable inundations happened in the years 1768 and 1782. Three-fourths of the farm of Over-bogs have been deſtroyed by land-floods, which have hurled from the hills an immenſe quantity of ſtones and ſand, and left them upon that plain field, where the river ſometimes parts into two or three ſtreams.

Climate.—

* Finnacs are a ſpecies of fiſh in colour and ſhape like a ſalmon. They weigh from 2 lb. to 4 lb. White trouts are of a leſs ſize, but of a whiter colour. They are ſuppoſed to be two ſpecies of ſea trouts. In April, ſhoals of the fry of each ſpecies ſwim down to the ſea, from which they do not return ſooner than July.

Climate.—The air is pure along the banks of the Loſſie, but rather moiſt among the hills. They riſe to a conſiderable height above the Loſſie, and attract more ſhowers than the low land. The inhabitants, however, in each of theſe places, are equally healthful, and free from any diſorders, but ſuch as are common all over this country.

Minerals, Trees, Animals, &c.—A large chain of rocks extend eaſt and weſt through the middle of the pariſh. The greateſt part of the country houſes are built with moor ſtones, which abound in every hill. Some ſtrata of freeſtone, of ſlate and limeſtone, have been lately diſcovered. The freeſtone and ſlate have been uſed in repairing the church and manſe. There are ſome oak, birch, hazle, aſh, and plane trees; but they are not ſufficient for ſupplying the implements of huſbandry. Some large trunks of oak and fir are dug out of the moſſes. Of theſe the inhabitants make very ſtrong couples and lath for their houſes. Fruit trees are ſcarce. The ſhrubs of broom, furze, juniper, ſloes, hips and brambles, are innumerable. The water-lilly is the only herb, which perhaps is peculiar to this pariſh, it grows in the Gedloch. Moorfowl, partridge and hare are the principal game. The Earl of Moray, as tradition relates, uſed often to hunt and ſhoot on theſe hills. That he might have accommodation during the ſporting ſeaſon, he allotted a croft of land to the vintner, and another to the blackſmith; for which the one paid a roſe, and the other a horſe ſhoe, yearly, if required. The crofts ſtill retain the names of Brewer's-croft and Smithy-croft. The lapwing appears in March, the cuckoo in April, and the ſwallow in May; they all begin to diſappear about the end of ſummer.

Agri-

Agriculture, &c.

Number of acres in Scotch measure,	- -	5000
—— —— —— arable,	- - - -	850
—— of which under oats,	- - -	450
—— —— —— under bear and barley,	-	200
—— —— —— under wheat, rye and peaſe,	-	40
—— —— —— under ley or natural graſs,	-	120
—— —— —— under clover and rye-graſs, turnip, potatoes, flax and cabbage,	-	40
Total value of produce at L. 3 the acre,	L. 2550	0 0
Number of horſes 140, valued at L. 4 each,	L. 560	0 0
—— —— cattle 360, at L. 3 each,	1080	0 0
—— —— ſheep 1500, at 5s. each,	375	0 0
—— —— ſwine 5, at 15s. each,	3 15	0
Total value of live ſtock, -	L. 2018 15	0
Valued rent in Scotch money, -	L. 734 13	6
Real rent (1791,) in Sterling, - -	360	0 0
Feu-duty payable to the Earl of Moray, bolls 8,	1 4	2
And biſhops rents, - - - -	3 10	10
Number of farms above L. 50 yearly,	-	2
—— —— ditto under L. 50,	- - -	40
—— —— graſs farms poſſeſſed by non-reſiding tenants,		2
—— —— carts,	- - - -	100
—— —— ploughs,	- - -	45

Wheat and rye are ſown in November. Several attempts have been made to prevent *ſmut* in wheat without ſucceſs. By a few recent experiments, however, there is ground to think that ſmut may be prevented by drying the ſeed wheat on a kiln with a ſlow fire of peats. Ten firlots of wheat may be reduced by the heat to about eight. Nothing

thing would be more agreeable than to hear that others are equally fortunate in making ſimilar experiments.—Oats and peaſe are ſown from the 13th of March to the middle of April; barley from the middle of April to the beginning of June; turnip ſeed from the 25th of June to the middle of July.—Harveſt begins about the 12th of September, and ends about ſix weeks afterward.

The late Earl of Findlater and Seafield, a nobleman of diſtinguiſhed character, induced his tenants to make conſiderable improvements in agriculture, by encouraging them to fallow their fields, to ſow graſs and turnip ſeeds, and plant potatoes. All which are obviouſly of great advantage to the farmer. He promoted alſo the manufacture of flax and wool, by giving ſpinning wheels to the farmers wives and daughters. They now manufacture the whole of the wool of their own ſheep. Of a ſtone of wool they make from 36 to 40 ells of excellent plaiding, which they ſell for about 1s. the ell. When they have done with manufacturing the wool, ſince the ſoil does not produce flax to perfection, they employ themſelves in ſpinning flax imported by the merchants in the neighbourhood, who allow them 3d. for each hank of the coarſeſt, and 6d. for each hank of the fineſt yarn which they ſpin.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was then 525.—The numbers in 1781 were 460; in 1791, were 402. To explain the decreaſe, beſides 24 perſons who have emigrated to America, two farms are poſſeſſed by tenants who do not reſide in the pariſh, for the purpoſe of paſture, where 4 tenants formerly lived. Beſides there are 4 tenants who poſſeſs as much land as 8 did before. There were 6 heritors in 1766, ſince that period the Earl of Findlater has purchaſed all the lands except a croft of about 5 acres.

Average

Average of births for 8 years preced. 1791,	9	Members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -	400
Ditto of deaths, ditto,	8	Seceders, - -	2
Ditto of marriages, ditto,	2	Schoolmaſter, -	1
Under 10 years of age,	101	Young perſons taught to read and write,	16
—— 20, - -	85	Ditto, taught Latin,	4
—— 50, - -	113	Weavers, - -	8
—— 70, - -	85	Carpenters, - -	2
—— 90, - -	16	Blackſmith, - -	1
—— 100, - -	2	Shoemakers, - -	6
Houſes inhabited, -	85	Tailors, - -	4
Married perſons, -	128	Miller, - -	1
Average children from each marriage, -	5	Day-labourers, -	2
Widowers, - -	10	Male farm-ſervants, -	22
Widows, - -	20	Female ditto, -	17

The farms in general being of ſmall extent, are managed by the tenants themſelves, and their children. They only need the aſſiſtance of reapers in harveſt.

Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.—The money-ſtipend is L. 41, 16s. $4\frac{10}{12}$d. Sterling; the victual, 18 bolls 2 pecks $3\frac{1}{2}$ lippies bear; and, 20 bolls 1 firlot 3 pecks 1 lippie oat-meal. Patron, the Earl of Moray. The glebe, graſs incloſure, and garden, contain about 9 acres. The church, built with hewn freeſtone, conſiſts of a nave and choir. Part of the walls was repaired in 1734, as appears from the date on the bell-houſe. The late Mr Shaw, a learned and reſpectable clergyman of this preſbytery, who publiſhed the hiſtory of this province in 1775, ſays, that it is probable, that the biſhop's firſt cathedral in this dioceſe was ſituated in Birnie, and that Simeon de Tonei, one of the biſhops of Moray, was buried in Birnie in 1184. It is held in great veneration

tion by many in this county. They ſtill, in ſome meaſure, entertain a ſuperſtitious conceit, that prayers there offered up three ſeveral Sabbaths will ſurely be heard. Inſomuch that when a perſon is indiſpoſed, or of bad behaviour, this common ſaying obtains, 'You have need to be prayed for thrice in the church of Birnie, that you may either end or mend."

There are 18 poor now inrolled, who have nothing to depend upon for their ſupply but the weekly voluntary collections, and a ſhare of a mortification, which amount only to about L. 7 a-year. That ſum is diſtributed among them every year, and goes but a ſhort way towards ſupplying their wants. The aged and infirm, therefore, muſt travel beyond the bounds of the pariſh, and implore alms from the charitable. It is remarkable, however, that 20 years ago, there was but one common beggar in the pariſh. He was blind, and led from door to door. To the poor who are not able to work, nor go from home, the pariſhioners prove their charitable diſpoſition, by putting ſome meal into bags, hung up in the mill, for the purpoſe of their relief, when they are grinding their corn there, or by ſending them at other times ſuch quantities of meal and of fuel as they can ſpare.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The talleſt man in the pariſh is 6 feet 2½ inches. The general ſize of the people is ſuppoſed to be 5½ feet.—The year 1782 was very remarkable for the lateneſs and coldneſs of the harveſt, which only began the 15th October that year. At a moderate computation, one half of the corn was damaged by the froſt and heavy falls of ſnow. The ſcarcity and high price of meal that enſued was truly alarming; and had not Providence put a ſtop to hoſtilities in America and Europe, and given the Britiſh Parliament time to mind the ſtate of

North Britain at that period, thouſands muſt have periſhed for want of bread. Happily, in conſequence of ſome ſupply of meal from Government, and by importing corn and meal from the Continent of Europe, none died for want of the neceſſary means of ſubſiſtence. At that time potatoes were often uſed in place of bread by many. A family, conſiſting of 9 perſons, had nothing elſe to eat for a whole week, and yet they looked pretty well.—There is plenty of heath, furze, broom, turf, and peat. Peats are the beſt fuel. A great many, beſides the pariſhioners, are ſupplied with peats from the moſſes of Birnie. Two hundred loads of peats are requiſite to keep a good fire in a room, and another in the kitchen, for a year. They cannot be caſt, dried, and carried home, at the diſtance of 4 miles, for leſs than 1 s. the load.—The people are induſtrious, temperate, and cheerful, though poor. Muſic is their favourite diverſion. Some of them can play on the bagpipe, and others on the violin. Ferocious manners have given place to civilized. There has been no inſtance of ſuicide or murder during the laſt 26 years. Neither has any one been baniſhed, or ſuffered capital puniſhment. They ſpeak Engliſh, in the Scotch dialect. It is remarkable in this, as well as in other pariſhes of this county, that when the conſonants *r* and *s* meet, as in the words *horſe*, *curſe*, &c. the letter *r* is quieſcent, and the common people pronounce theſe words as if they were written *hoſs*, *cuſs* *.

Antiquities and Natural Curioſities.—A ſtone baptiſtery, and an old bell, made of a mixture of ſilver and copper, of an

* As to the price of grain, and other proviſions, for 10 years preceding 1791, the price of a boll of wheat, on an average, is L. 1; of barley, 16 s.; of oats and oat-meal, 14 s. 6 d.; of peaſe and barley meal, 13 s. 4 d.; of the beſt beef, mutton, veal, pork, and ſalmon, 3 d. the pound; of a hen, 7 d.; of a chicken, 3 d.; of a pigeon, 1 d.; of a dozen of haddocks, 6 d.

an oblong figure, named the *coronach*, are ſtill kept as the remains of antiquity. Tradition relates that the bell was made at Rome, and conſecrated by the Pope.—The *bible-ſtone*, having the figure of a book diſtinctly engraven, lying about a mile eaſt from the church, on the ſide of the road leading from Birnie to Rothes, has probably been placed there as a land-mark.—The Cairn of Killforeman, of a conical figure, 300 feet in circumference at the baſe, has been probably placed over the remains of a brave man, whoſe exploits are now forgotten.—The cave in the middle of a ſteep high rock, near the Gedloch, was, according to tradition, haunted about 100 years ago by a gang of armed ruffians, who had no viſible way of obtaining the means of ſubſiſtence, but by theft and robbery. The happy conſtitution we now enjoy has ſuppreſſed all ſuch lawleſs banditti.—All who have ſeen the falls of water in the Lin of the Shoggle, and the Eats of Glenlaterach, much admire them, and the adjacent wilds. There is about 20 feet of a fall of water in each of theſe places.—Some veſtiges of an incampment can be traced in a well-aired dry ſituation, watered on the weſt ſide by the burn of Barden, and fortified on the E. and N. by a valley. It commands a proſpect of the Moray Frith, from Speymouth to Cromarty Bay. Probably the Danes, after invading this part of the country, had a camp there.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The paſture for cattle and ſheep annexed to the ſeveral farms in the Highlands, is of great advantage to the tenants; but the arable land being much expoſed to the north, the corn growing there is late in ripening, and frequently damaged by froſt.—From the winter ſolſtice to the vernal equinox, heavy falls of ſnow often cover the face of the earth, and deprive the ſheep of convenient paſture. They, having nothing but

ſtraw

ſtraw to eat in the folds, become lean and feeble; inſo-much, that when the ewes yean, many lambs die; becauſe their dams have not milk enough for them. The owners would therefore do well to provide a ſufficient quantity of turnip and hay for the ewes.—Materials for the implements of agriculture are ſcarce. An aſh tree coſts the artificer himſelf from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. Sterling the foot. It would therefore be equally advantageous to the proprietors and tenants, that ſuch an extent of waſte ground were incloſed, and planted with aſh, birch, and alder, as might furniſh the farmer with every neceſſary utenſil of timber.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF KILMORY,

(ISLE OF ARRAN, COUNTY OF BUTE, SYNOD OF ARGYLE, PRESBYTERY OF KINTYRE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN HAMILTON.

Origin of the Names Arran, Kilmory, &c.

TRADITION ſays, that the name *Arran* is derived from a plat of ground in the north end of the iſland, where a battle was fought by Fin or Fingal, (the chief of the giants,) who inhabited this iſland, with Manus, the King of Swedland's ſon, where was a great ſlaughter. Fingal being conqueror, the plat of ground was called in Gaelic by a name which literally ſignifies, "Fin's ſlaughter." *Ar* and *Fin* being joined, make the name in Gaelic to be, in the genitive, *Ar-ſhin*, or the "Slaughter of Fin," which by degrees was written *Arran*.—*Kilmory* ſignifies, in Gaelic, "St Mary's Chapel," or in Gaelic itſelf, *Cill Mhuire*. The iſland of Arran contains only two pariſhes, Kilmory and Kilbride. Kilmory pariſh extends 30 miles in a ſemicircular form, from Dippin on the ſouth

ſouth-eaſt, to Lochrannza, in the north extreme of Arran. It is bounded on the S. E. S. W. and N. W. by the ſea; and in the narroweſt place is only 6 miles from Kintyre; on the N. E. by a ſpacious central common moor, where the horſes and ſheep of the iſland range promiſcuouſly in ſummer.—The ſurface of the pariſh is uneven and hilly; the ſoil is various, partly graveliſh, clay, and moſſy, and is capable of producing light crops of barley, oats, (in ſome places,) peaſe, and flax only for private uſe; but potatoes are planted in every farm, and are the general food of the people.

Diſeaſes.—The diſeaſes here, are cancers, rheums, fevers brought from other countries, and a great death of new-born infants, by the falling down of the jaws; and ſome women die in childbed, both which laſt two are attributed to the unſkilfulneſs of midwives, who venture upon the practice from natural courage, without neceſſary and proper knowledge, there being none duly qualified in the iſland. The oldeſt man now living in the pariſh is 88, a few more have turned 80, and there has been an inſtance of 1 who reached 95.

Rivers, Lochs or Lakes.—The burns here, which ſcarce deſerve the name of rivers, have, ſome of them, their ſource from lochs or lakes in the mountains, and ſome from numberleſs ſprings; after a ſhort and rapid courſe they empty themſelves into the ſea; they abound with fine trouts, and ſome ſalmon. There are 3 lochs or lakes; the principal of which is Earſay loch, in the weſt of the iſland, which abounds with trouts of different ſizes, and fine ſalmon, which are caught by cruives and draught-lines.

Caves.—

Caves.—There are ſeveral natural caves, the principal, and which highly excites the curioſity of ſtrangers of all ranks, is one in the weſt of the iſland, oppoſite to Campbelltown, called the King's Cove, becauſe, as tradition affirms, King Robert de Bruce and his retinue lodged in it for ſome time, when taking ſhelter in retired places, before his defeat of John Baliol, and acceſſion to the throne of Scotland. It is 40 yards long, 16 broad, and about 20 high, in which are ſeveral engravings and antique figures; ſeemingly a coat of arms, and forms of weapons are cut in the rock; a little within the entry are the letters M. D. R. The cave is ſo ſpacious, that ſermons have been preached in it to ſome hundreds of hearers at different times. About 2 miles ſouth from it is another cave, which could contain 20 perſons; but nothing elſe remarkable in it.

Hills and Sea Coaſt.—The higheſt hill is *Beinnbharfhionn*, or the "Mountain of the white top," ſo called, from its being covered a great part of the year with ſnow; it ſtands in the N. W. part of the iſland, and is ſuppoſed to be 2 miles high; but the adjacent mountain called *Goatfield*, though not quite ſo high, is yet more remarkable, as it produces brilliant ſtones. The ſea-coaſt, eſpecially in the E. and S. part of the pariſh, is a proud and very unhoſpitable ſhore; but towards the W. and N. ſomewhat leſs ſo, excepting a large ſunken rock in the W. S. W. part of the pariſh, almoſt oppoſite to Campbelltown, called the Iron Rock; it lies conſiderably off the land, and has proved detrimental to many veſſels.

Light Houſe.—In the iſle Pladday, a mile off the land, in the eaſt part of the pariſh, a light houſe has lately been erected, with two different lights, to diſtinguiſh it in the night

night from thoſe on the Mulls of Kintyre, Galloway, and Cumbray.

Fiſh.—The ſea-coaſt abounds with fiſh of different kinds, ſuch as herring, ſalmon, ſcate, cod, ling, lythe, flounder, haddock, whiting, &c. but the inhabitants have not acquired the art of being very beneficial to themſelves in fiſhing any of theſe but herring. There is alſo in theſe ſeas a hugh fiſh, called Sail-fiſh, which is caught by ſticking them with ſharp-edged inſtruments, of the harpoon kind; they are productive of good quantities of oil; but the fiſhermen muſt be dexterous when about to ſtick the fiſh, as the attempt is ſometimes dangerous.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor.—In this pariſh are two places of worſhip, excluſive of that occupied by the catechiſt in the north-end of the iſland. The principal parochial kirk is at Kilmory, in the ſouth end of the iſland, rebuilt in 1785, with Gothic windows, and 1 gallery. The other place, called Shiſken, is 6 computed miles weſtward. The Duke of Hamilton is patron, and ſole proprietor, excepting two farms. The ſtipend is L. 70, excluſive of a manſe and glebe.—There are two parochial ſchools. The ſalary allowed to the principal is L. 50 Scots, the half of which is paid by the Duke of Hamilton, and the other by the tenants of the diſtrict. To the other ſchool is allowed L. 40 Scots, paid alſo in halves, as aforeſaid. The pariſh is divided into 2 parochial diſtricts; each of the ſchoolmaſters has in his own diſtrict, 1 s. for marriage, 6 d. for baptiſm, and L. 6 Scots each for ſeſſion-clerkſhip; their number of ſcholars may be 50 each, more or leſs; but there are alſo many petty ſchools. The wages are invariably 1 s. the quarter for reading, 1 s. 6 d. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic.

The number of poor on the parish-roll is 40, who are supplied by the weekly collections as often as the fund admits; but which is quite inadequate to their need. Such therefore of them as can go about, receive alms from the country people; and those who are decrepit or confined to bed, are, in addition to the surplus received from the session, supported by country charity sent to them; for the people, according to their abilities, are very charitable, and attentive to real indigence.

Exports.—Several hundreds of black cattle are annually exported to Ayrshire; they are bought up by different persons, and ferried in every month from May to December; so that their number cannot easily be ascertained. A considerable quantity of barley is also exported to Greenock, Saltcoats, Irvine, Ayr, and Campbelltown; but 3 licensed distillers have lately been erected in the island, which will exhaust a great part of the barley that can henceforth be spared. Also kelp is manufactured here, and exported, perhaps 60 tons in the year. They also export small quantities of mutton, and linen yarn, by all which commodities, they are enabled, in addition to industry and œconomy, to pay their rent, and answer the other exigencies of their families. But as the island breeds no horses, the people are obliged to buy at dear rates, in Argyleshire, and other places; they also frequently buy sheep for breed in Ayrshire, as in stormy snowy winters many of their sheep die.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The chief advantages are good water and pure air; which are counterbalanced by many disadvantages. There are in this parish no safe harbours, by which many real losses are sustained; expense, loss of time, and sometimes loss of lives and property, attend the unavoidable necessity of having recourse to extramaritime

markets, both to ſell what they can ſpare, and buy the many things they need.

Language.—The mother tongue is the Gaelic, which is univerſally ſpoken; yet perſons advanced in years underſtand the Engliſh language tolerably; they acquire it by intercourſe with other countries, and are greatly aſſiſted by having the organs of ſpeech formed in their youth, it being the firſt language they are taught to read.

Migratory Birds, and Amphibious Animals.—We have tranſient viſits of the ſwan in winter, the fieldfare in time of ſnow, and the green plover in May and June, &c.—The otter, an agile animal, and of the canine form, often reſorts here; its ſkin fetches a good price, and notwithſtanding his vigilance, he ſometimes falls a prey to the markſman; alſo the ſeal, although ſeldom; its ſkin is likewiſe valuable.

Agriculture, &c.—There are in this pariſh 440 horſes, 1388 cows, 2085 ſheep, 102 goats. There are ſown 1320 bolls oats, 190 bolls barley, 330 bolls potatoes, 18 bolls peaſe, 9 bolls flax-ſeed. The old Scotch plough is generally uſed here, drawn by 4 horſes. The nature of the ſoil is ſuch, that they cannot begin early to till, and can have time only to till, at an average, at the rate of about 14 bolls the plough.—The rent of the pariſh is L. 2398 a-year.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the numbers then were 2277, at preſent there are in the whole of Kilmory 3259; but theſe are not all ſupported by the produce and internal induſtry of the pariſh, many of the young people go to ſervice to the neighbouring countries, eſpecially Ayrſhire; many of the young men are employed

ed in the fiſheries; ſome in the Revenue cutters, and Exciſe yachts; and in time of war many are employed in the Royal navy, and a great number in all the different branches of Britiſh trade.—From Dippin to Earſay, (excluſive of what is from Earſay to Lochranza, and which is under the charge of a chatechiſt,) there have been in the courſe of the year 1791, 71 baptiſms, and 21 marriages. Dippin is 16 miles from Earſay; Earſay 14 from Lochranza. **No bill of mortality kept.**

NUM.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH of St ANDREW's, LHANBRYD,

(County of Elgin, Synod of Moray, Presbytery of Elgin.)

By the Rev. Mr William Leslie.

Geography and Natural Hiſtory.

LHANBRYD, ſignifying in the original, "St Bridget's Church," was united to St Andrew's, to which laſt, two other chapels had alſo been joined before the Reformation. This pariſh meaſures about 3 Engliſh miles from W. to E. along the highway from Elgin to Spey; and from S. to N. about 4, excluſive of an improvement in the hill 1 mile diſtant, on the S. disjoined by an intervening ſkirt of the pariſh of Elgin, to which it pertains. It was originally the moor where the cattle were collected for drawing part of the teinds of both pariſhes, before they were converted into money, from which it retains the name of *Teindland*; and on account of its diſtance from Elgin, the inhabitants have in general ranked themſelves in this pariſh. The general appearance of the country is a plain, in which ſeveral low hills riſe, ſo arranged as to appear connected with

with each other, and all covered with corn or graſs, or with plantations of wood. The ſoil in general is ſandy, yet fertile where it is low and damp. The air is healthful and dry; not productive of any prevalent diſtemper; although the inhabitants are not diſtinguiſhed for longevity. There is one mineral ſpring in the Teindland, of a ſtrong chalybeate kind, as yet of no celebrity; though it has given relief to all who have made proper trial of its effects. There are three lakes on the confines of the pariſh; the largeſt, that of Spynie from 4 to 6 feet of water on a deep rich mould, inviting its proprietors to drain off its ſhallow water. Several years ago, one of them carried on this operation at a conſiderable expenſe, and with the moſt encouraging proſpects; but when he had nearly completed the improvement of the old canal, he was retarded by a litigation before the Court of Seſſion, with his neighbour on the other ſide of the lake, who wiſhed to retain all the water. This oppoſition being at laſt unſucceſsful, the undertaking was completed; by which, although not effectual, many acres were regained, where the courſe of ridges, the formation of artificial roads, and every token of ancient and unknown cultivation, moſt evidently and unexpectedly appeared. The neighbouring loch of Cots, originally a part of that of Spynie, at firſt a ſtrait of the ocean, deſcribed in the chartulary of Moray as a bay, in the 13th century, is on the ſame level, and offers equal encouragement to drain off its water, in proportion to its extent; and being ſupported by two conſiderable rivulets, the mouth of the canal would afford a profitable ſalmon-fiſhing. Lochnabee, in the S. E. corner of the pariſh, is about 3 miles in circumference, and has an iſland covered with wood. There is a foreſt round this lake planted by the Earl of Fife, ſo extenſive and thriving, as to have already induced a ſcore or two of red deer to make their reſidence in its cover. Theſe lakes abound

with

with trout, eel and pike, with a great variety of wild ducks, and at one ſeaſon of the year with wild geeſe and ſwans; but neither the proprietors, nor their tenants, avail themſelves in any degree whatever of theſe advantages. The only river is Loſſie, which, entering the pariſh at the N. W. corner, divides it there from the town of Elgin, and ſhaping its courſe in the form of a parabola, leaves it near the ſea at the north, including within the parabola about one third of what was the pariſh of St Andrew's; having its church in the apex, at which there is a ſubſtantial timber bridge*.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the numbers then were 690. The number of inhabitants was conſiderably greater than now about 30 years ago. Several farms which were each poſſeſſed by 10 or 16 families, are now let to one man; and of late ſeveral are occupied by inhabitants of the town of Elgin, and by farmers of other pariſhes, ſome of whom have no reſident ſervant, and others only one or two, where numerous families dwelt. At preſent, the number is 777, including the improvement of Teindland, making 140 families, of which 106 are wedded pairs; the number of males 345; females 412. The yearly average of births is 16, which muſt be multiplied by 48 or 50, in order to produce the population; although a note in the 17th chapter of Gibbon's Hiſtory of the Roman empire,

* A great part of St Andrew's is expoſed to land-floods, by the overflow of Loſſey on both ſides. The higheſt now remembered was in 1768; a very deſtructive one in 1782; and much damage was done by two, during the harveſt of 1789. This calamity might be prevented at no great expenſe, by a little concert among the proprietors, and taking out the dam of a mill, which has no thirlage, and gives but a trifle of rent. The extent of the ſea-coaſt is only about one mile; a low ſandy ſhore, pertaining to one farm; upon which ordinary tides riſe from 7 to 8 feet perpendicular; at preſent it affords nothing but an inconſiderable quantity of ſea-weed for manure.

empire, bears, "That the annual proportion of births to the whole people, is about 1 to 26 in the province of French Hainault." The number of Seceders is 34, Methodiſts 7, Epiſcopalians 2, 736 may be accounted of the Eſtabliſhed Church, although nearly 30 of them prefer more generally a kind independent preacher, ſupported by the magiſtrates and elders of Elgin *.

Agriculture, &c.—Grain, eatable roots, and the whole claſs of cultivated braſſica, the ordinary fruits, and almoſt every tree known in Scotland, are raiſed in the pariſh, which has always produced more grain than requiſite for the inhabitants. The victual-rents diſpoſed of by the proprietors to Highland counties of crop 1782, greatly overbalanced the ſupply of meal granted to the poor that year by the State. Since the exciſe on tanning leather obliged the poorer families to give up making their own ſhoes, no hemp has been cultivated; but there is ſtill flax raiſed, though only for domeſtic accommodation. There are 252 horſes, each pair in general managing a plough; 750 black cattle, a very ſmall number of which are labouring oxen, a

* This meeting was eſtabliſhed about 20 years ago, by one of the miniſters of Elgin, who was prejudiced againſt the preſentee appointed for his colleague; for the ſupport of which, he bequeathed a capital of L. 100 Sterling. They aſſemble in an old edifice on the end of the church, built for the week-day worſhip of the town's people, in compliance with their prejudice for holydays, on the abolition of Epiſcopacy. The managers let ſuch ſeats as have not been claimed; but a ſubſcription by the hearers is alſo requiſite for the ſupport of the preacher, who has little other connexion with the Church, but that he muſt be licenſed by a preſbytery of the Synod of Roſs: While the people of this meeting are content with the miniſtration of their reſpective pariſhes, unleſs in the article of ordinary public worſhip, which ſome attend from all quarters, at the diſtance of 10 or 16 miles.

a few pairs only being employed in the plough and waggon; there are 1060 ſheep, a ſmall number of which are accounted here of the Bakewell breed. They are without horns, and have long wool; the fleece weighs from 7 to 12 pounds; about a fifth part are of the Linton breed, the reſt are a white faced breed, that have always been in the country, much diminiſhed in bulk by ſcanty paſture; as yet there is no idea of improving the quality of the wool.—Tenants of the rank of gentlemen have all their graſs of ſown clovers, rye and rib graſs; the poor tenants depend on natural ley-graſs, with a patch of clover in their gardens. The rent by the acre on moſt farms is varied every year, by the difference of the price of grain, of which a portion of the rent of every farm has been in general paid. When grain ſells at 14 s. or 15 s. the boll, the average rent by the acre is about 15 s.; but a great proportion of almoſt every farm can be only valued at 5 s. the acre; and a part of each, if let ſeparately, would bring a guinea the acre. There being little or no common paſture pertaining to any farm, the land, conſidering the quantity of grain produced from the acre, muſt be reckoned high rented.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The poſſeſſors of the landed property are 7. The Earl of Fife has the whole of what was the pariſh of Lhanbryd, and the ancient barony of Kilmalemnock, in St Andrew's; the Earl of Findlater holds Linkwood and Linksfield, in the weſt; the Hon. George Duff, Barmickity, in the middle of the pariſh; John Brander, Eſq; holds Pitgaveny, in the north; William King, Eſq; has Newmill, and the lands in the vicinity of Elgin; and John Innes, Eſq; writer to the Signet, has Dunkinty, towards the eaſt; and a ſmall farm was, in the laſt generation, given by Gordon of Cairnfield, for the ſupport of

the Epiſcopal chapel in Elgin.—The only language of the pariſh is Scots. The names of the places, in general, are of that language; ſuch as Hornhead, Hairſtones, Hollow-wood, and Cockſtown. Theſe are beauties peculiar to this language, in energy, brevity, and animation; which would be more natural ornaments in the Engliſh tongue, than any of its exotic importations. Theſe, therefore, as well as the Scoticiſms, might be alſo collected and publiſhed.—The people, over all this country, are moſt ſtrictly œconomical, and as little expenſive or luxurious as poſſible. They are diſpoſed to every kind of humane and generous action, as much as their circumſtances will admit of. The lower rank of farmers and labourers, though not content perhaps with their ſituation, and though they do not enjoy all the comforts of life, yet do not complain more than their opulent neighbours. There are numbers of them, however, who are generally without ſmall beer and milk, and almoſt none of them have meat, butter, cheeſe or ſpirits, and all their poultry and eggs are ſold in the Elgin market. Their dreſs, furniture and habitations are ſtill of the cheapeſt kinds which can be procured. They uſe no candles; and urine they ſubſtitute for ſoap. Funerals are conducted without expenſe; there is no company or dancing on the occaſion of a wedding; nor at baptiſms, in general, is there any kind of entertainment. Almoſt the only pleaſure they indulge in, is meeting occaſionally, to the number of 15 or 25, for the purpoſe of converſing about ſome of the abſtruſeſt doctrines of Calviniſm, in which they diſplay their eloquence in the only kind of ſpouting of which they have any notion, that of a theological oration and a prayer, varied by occaſional reflections on the degeneracy and oppreſſions of the age. It is probable, the anceſtors of the preſent generation of peaſants poſſeſſed at no period, a much larger ſtock of knowledge; but ſince, by the altera-

tion of the times, the ſalaries of ſchoolmaſters can in no way ſupport a family, that office has fallen altogether into the hands of mere ſchool-boys, which they abandon as ſoon as their own education is ſuppoſed to be completed, or into that of bankrupt tenants, ſtill leſs qualified for the duties of it. So that a thicker cloud of ignorance muſt be ſettling over the lower ranks of people, than that which covered their fathers. And while the reputation for learning, which Scotland has ſo long ſupported among the nations, muſt in a ſhort time be loſt, thoſe numbers, who, by means of that mediocrity of literature acquired in the pariſh ſchools, roſe from the loweſt ſtations of life to *merit*, *wealth*, and *rank*, muſt be henceforth chained down, hopeleſs and inglorious, to the miſerable ſphere of their humble birth. Pariſh ſchools are peculiar to Scotland. The idea of this inſtitution was originally ſuggeſted as proper for reconciling the minds of the people to the adminiſtration of Charles I. And, in a ſimilar view, they were eſtabliſhed in their preſent form by the firſt Parliament of King William. For ſeveral generations, while the example of country gentlemen, and the ability of ſchoolmaſters, ſupported the labours of miniſters, the ſchoolmaſter's connexion in the pariſh being equally permanent, and their learning in general on a reſpectable par, the people were preſerved loyal to Government, and ſteady to the Church; but after the gentlemen withdrew their countenance, and ſlighted the ordinances of their national religion, and the office of ſchoolmaſter became inefficient, by the diminiſhed value of its appointment, the miniſters were wholly unſupported, the people blind to the ſignal advantages of their Government, and feeling the preſſure of its manifold exactions; while their minds, relating both to Church and State, as much perverted now by vagrants in the character of diſſenting preachers, as they were then by trafficking prieſts, are, in as great a degree, diſpoſed

for

for innovation, if it ſhould elſewhere ſpring up, as in any former age; with this difference, that the band of religion which tied the people ſo ſtrongly to their ſuperiors, being now broken, they would be very little controlled by their influence. Perhaps it would be wiſe, therefore, in the State, to augment the living of ſchoolmaſters to the ſame value which it comparatively bore in the reign of William; which would not at preſent require, in all, above L. 5000 Sterling a-year, which might be tranſmitted to the Sheriffs, or paid by the Collectors of Exciſe.

By theſe means the condition of the kingdom would be meliorated; for while ſome knowledge of writing and arithmetic is now indiſpenſable to every mechanic, maſon, carpenter, weaver and tailor, nothing can be more abſurd than to allege, that a man makes a better farmer, is more content with his ſituation, or a more uſeful member of ſociety, becauſe he can neither read or write; on the contrary, ignorance of itſelf occaſions diſcontent, and expoſes thoſe who are under its gloom to be more eaſily miſled by the crafty, which the members of every mob, and the ſmalleſt obſervation of the ſentiments of that condition ſufficiently demonſtrate. The pariſh having no advantages nor diſadvantages peculiar to itſelf, the means by which its condition might be meliorated, would alſo influence that of all the country. Granting long leaſes, has, in general, been accounted among the means of meliorating the condition of tenants, and of improving the country; yet their being no other advantage from this, but that the tenant is encouraged to improve by the certainty of reaping its profit, it would be eaſy, by the conditions of the leaſe, to give equal encouragement for temporary or permanent improvement, if the tenant ſhould be removed in ſuch circumſtances, as to give the landlord the profits of it. On moſt farms there are corners inacceſſible to the plough, the bank of a ditch,

or

or the winding margin of a brook, where trees would be ornamental, and promote the growth of graſs, by their ſhade and their ſhelter. The tenant at preſent has ſeldom any encouragement to plant ſuch ſpots, as, by act of Parliament, all the growing timber is the ſole property of the landlord. But were ſome arrangement made between the landlord and the tenant, to encourage the latter, either to plant ſuch ſpots himſelf, or to take care of the trees therein planted, every farm, in the courſe of the riſing generation, would be provided with timber ſufficient for its own accommodation.—For many years paſt the agricultural induſtry of this part of the country has been conſiderably diſcouraged, by the difficulty of procuring and managing farm-ſervants, occaſioned by an emigration of many of that rank to the manufacturing and commercial places of the ſouth; while, by a pretty widely extended combination among themſelves, they have raiſed their wages here, as high as in any part of the kingdom, it is certain there is leſs work accompliſhed by equal numbers. They inſiſt on being regulated in all circumſtances, by the faſhion or practice of other farms, which themſelves have by this means eſtabliſhed; and if any perſon contends any particular with them, he thereby incurs the imputation of being a bad maſter, and muſt thereupon, at the next term, give an advance of wages, or ſome conceſſion ſtill more humiliating. How far this may or does affect the land-rent, is not aſcertained, nor have the gentlemen of the country yet felt the evil; an additional ſervant or two is of little conſequence to them, and their influence ſecures in general a preference to the moſt diſcreet, ſo that they rather foſter than check the extravagance. It would, nevertheleſs, be proper in them to extend their care a little to the concerns, in this reſpect, of their poorer neighbours, and to the ſtate of the country in general; and it is yet practicable, by a little concert among them,

them, gradually and silently, to introduce practices more beneficial to all concerned.—This country suffers also somewhat from a spirit of litigation, which the landholders seem rather to foment, than take any care to suppress; for having universally relinquished their legal ancient privilege of warning out tenants by their own authority, great numbers are yearly brought together in the sheriff-court, upon an act only of the Court of Session, to see themselves decerned to remove, where they acquire notions concerning the rights of men, no way favourable to industry, concord or thrift. Besides, the depressing influence of the tax on water-born coal, which is above the sixth part of the price, this country moreover feels the partiality of the tax on Scots coal carried north of the Redhead, of which it now requires a considerable importation, and besides the freight, shore-dues, and other unavoidable expence of conveyance, this tax alone increases the original price at the pit one-fourth part by the ton*.

This country in particular, and the whole island, would be greatly benefited by a bridge on the river Spey, at the ferry of Fochabers. The improved system of agriculture in sowing grass and other green crops, instead of the uninterrupted cultivation of corn, has naturally turned the attention of the people to the increase of black cattle. The county of Banff, and the adjoining parts of Aberdeenshire, where Banff is only 8 or 10 miles broad, are by climate

* Numbers also in this country are mortified by another inconvenience. The ports of Findhorn, Lossie, and Spey, belong to the district of the Custom-house of Inverness. Besides the trouble of obtaining the clearance, on the arrival of every vessel, an express must be dispatched thither, before they can begin to unload; by which a delay of three days, besides much expense, is unnecessarily incurred. But no inconvenience could result from a deputation to proper officers at Elgin; yet the gentlemen of the country submit to this distress, with a patience and self-denial which at least does honour to their Christian resignation.

mate adapted to paſturage, therefore, during ſummer and autumn, cattle markets have been eſtabliſhed in ſome place of that country every week; croſſing the cattle over this rapid and generally unfordable river, and bringing home under the night ſuch as may not be ſold, is attended by a moſt forbidding inconvenience, which it is not neceſſary here particularly to deſcribe. The application of lime as a manure has of late been practiſed in this country, and much greater quantities of it are now uſed in building than in any former age. Banffſhire abounding in limeſtone and fuel, furniſhes the whole quantity required for both purpoſes. Beſides hard labour, and much time in loading and unloading the boat, the freight alone adds a fifth part to the price. How far Government may be intereſted in this bridge, needs not be here ſtated; but it may be obſerved, that experience hath now proved, that the opening of proper roads, has alone civilized and improved the rudeſt corners of the Highlands, while the forts which were erected there, and are ſupported at ſo great expenſe, have in this reſpect been found entirely nugatory; although they could not be intended for any other purpoſe in a country which, nature having interdicted from being the theatre of war, can only at any period exhibit the ſcene of a ſlight ſkirmiſh, or one ſhort engagement.—The eaſy practicability, and the advantages of making a canal through the loch of Spynie, and the N. W. corner of the pariſh from Loſſiemouth, to within a mile of Elgin, navigable without a lock for any veſſel that can get into the harbour, might be pointed out.—But it only remains rather to ſuggeſt the advantage of eſtabliſhing a corn-market ſimilar to that of Haddington. The county, at an average, diſpoſes of from 10,000 to 16,000 bolls, by the agency only of 3 or 4 perſons, who, in general, purchaſe by commiſſion from their correſpondents in the ſouth, and they alone are often

able

able to fix the price for the year. Although the city of Edinburgh, and the diſtillers, may be ſuppoſed to purchaſe the whole grain of the Haddington market, yet, ſince the eſtabliſhment of ſmall ſtills in the north, it is evident the ſituation of this country would admit of ſuch a weekly market on a ſmall ſcale at Elgin, and it would require no great exertion of the ingenuity, or attention of the country gentlemen, to form and ſupport an eſtabliſhment ſo obviouſly patriotic.--Although the people of Teindland are at liberty to chooſe any church moſt convenient, they are bound to a mill in their own pariſh of Elgin, and beſides it, there are 8 mills with which the pariſh is connected.—By the quantity of potato, and alterations in the mode of living, it is certain there is not ſo much meal conſumed in the country as was formerly. The people in general murmur greatly on account of mill exactions and ſervices; perhaps, therefore, it would be more advantageous for the proprietors of mills to apportion their preſent rent on the lands of their thirlage, than it may be at any future period, when this meaſure, according to the practice of more highly cultivated countries, may be univerſally adopted.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF NEW DEER,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF DEER.)

By the Rev. Mr HUGH TAYLOR.

Name, Extent, &c.

NEW DEER was once a part of the ancient parish of *Deer:* from which it was disjoined in the beginning of last century. It was first called *Auchreddy*, from the field in which the church is situated; it had that name time immemorial; and which, like that of most places in the parish, evidently seems to be of Gaelic extraction. These parishes are now denominated *Old* and *New Deer*. The etymology of *Deer* is unknown, or at least uncertain; perhaps it may be a corruption from the Gaelic. This parish is perhaps one of the largest in the county. It is of an oblong form, extending from S. to N. 14 English miles; and 7 at a medium from E. to W. The church is pretty centrical, and is 30 miles distant from Aberdeen directly N.; 48 miles by Peterhead directly W. and 17 miles from Banff

Banff in a N. E. direction. There is one thing peculiar to its ſituation, the ſea is deſcribed around it from S. E. to N. W. almoſt with a radius of 18 miles: ſo that it is nearly equidiſtant from all the different ports, along a ſea-coaſt of more than 40 miles.

Surface, Soil and Produce.—The ſurface here, as alſo through the whole of Buchan, is pretty flat. There is ſcarcely a hill, or even a place that deſerves to be called an eminence, in all the pariſh. A piece of riſing ground, indeed, is ſituated about a mile N. from the church; from which there is an extenſive, and, in ſummer, a very pleaſant and variegated proſpect. Towards the N. E. E. and S. E. the appearance, for 7 or 8 miles, is almoſt one continued corn field, interſperſed with pieces of ſown graſs and turnip, and terminated by a gentle riſe of the ground, in form of an amphitheatre. Turning weſtward, the ſurface is heath and moor, chequered with ſome ſtraggling farms. Here alſo there is a view of many of the Highland hills 30 or 40 miles W.; and, in a clear day, a ſmall peep of the ſea at Peterhead. The public road from Aberdeen by Udny and Tarves, paſſing through this pariſh to the N. nearly divides it, and alſo forms a line of diſtinction between the different qualities of the ſoil. That part, which lies weſtward, is in general ſhallow, ſandy and dry. A good deal of this is entirely barren, and inclines very much to heath. But, from the appearance of ridges in many places upon its ſurface, even this ſeems to have once been moſtly under tillage: and it might be eaſily brought into cultivation again, by proper encouragement. On the eaſt ſide of the road, the ground being lower, the ſoil is generally deeper, for the moſt part arable, in ſome places wet, in others, (particularly about the middle,) very dry, rich and fertile. But though this diſtinction holds true in a

great meaſure, yet, in ſome places, the ſoil on one ſide of the road is very little different from what it is on the other. For moſs abounds throughout the pariſh: and, where this is the caſe, the adjacent ſoil is invariably wet, and the mould of a black or hazelly colour. The principal crops are oats and barley-big, with ſome peaſe. Every farmer has alſo a field of turnip, from 1 to 6 acres, according to the extent of his farm. Theſe are given to the cattle through the winter, and ſometimes uſed in fattening them for the butcher. Potatoes and flax are alſo raiſed, but only in ſmall quantities, and for private uſe. More articles of proviſion are produced, and manufactured in the pariſh, than it annually conſumes. A conſiderable quantity of oats is made into meal, and ſold to traders, who tranſport it by ſea to every place of Scotland, where they can find a market. Butter and cheeſe are alſo in plenty here; and of great importance. Small farmers or ſubtenants, uſually pay their rent by what of theſe they can afford to ſell, after ſupplying their own family. Every merchant in the pariſh buy theſe articles, and ſends them to market; generally at Leith and places adjoining to the Frith. Eggs too are purchaſed by them in conſiderable quantities, and ſhipped for the London market. But the rearing and ſale of black cattle is perhaps more advantageous to the farmer, than any thing that has been mentioned.—Valued rent is L 5159:6:10 Scots: real rent, including meal and money, about L. 3000 Sterling.

Agriculture, &c.—In point of improvement, this pariſh has undergone as ſenſible a change as moſt others. Roads, farms and houſes, and the implements of huſbandry, are ſo much ameliorated, that thoſe, who were acquainted with it 30 years ago, declare they would ſcarcely know it to be the ſame place, had they been ſo long abſent. When the preſent

preſent incumbent was ſettled in the year 1737, there was not a cart, but his own, in the pariſh: nor were there roads which could be travelled in many places. Then, and for many years after, there was but one carrier, who went weekly to Aberdeen with a horſe and *packets*. Sometimes he even went with nothing but a *back creel*, and brought what merchandiſe and proviſions were at the time neceſſary. Now, there is ſufficient employment for 3 or 4 carriers, who go each with a cart and two horſes. Burning, where the ſoil was ſuſceptible of it, was the principal manure for raiſing corn: and many places wear the impreſſion to this day. A kind of black bearded ſmall oats was then principally cultivated: now there is hardly ſuch a kind of grain in the pariſh. Liming was much uſed a few years ago; and, when neceſſary, can here be carried on at a moderate expenſe. But, although there is plenty of limeſtone and fuel in the pariſh, and a kiln for burning it on almoſt every farm and croft; yet the tenants are now obliged, in a great meaſure, to diſcontinue the practice. For it is found that lime, when applied in great quantity, or ſoon repeated, reduces their ſoil to a mere *caput mortuum*, producing little but thiſtles and other noxious weeds. Where barren ground is to be fertilized, or old ridges levelled and improved, the farmer ſtill has recourſe to it; and, when judiciouſly laid on, it is found to anſwer his moſt ſanguine expectations. When made into a compoſt with earth and dung, it alſo makes an excellent kind of manure for ley and turnip land. This is generally prepared in ſummer on a piece of the field, for which it is deſigned, or as near it as poſſible. Moſt of the farms are incloſed, either with turf or ſtone fences. The farm houſes are tolerably neat, and conſiſt of one ſtory. For the moſt part, they are built of ſtone and mortar, and ſnecked with lime. Stob-thatching is now become pretty general,

general, and when well executed, makes a warm and durable roof. At preſent a ſpirit of induſtry and improvement pervades every rank, and would probably lead on to a more perfect and general knowledge of agriculture, had they longer leaſes; but the bad effects of ſhort leaſes have been ſo clearly ſtated in other ſtatiſtical accounts, that it is needleſs to enter upon a detail of them.

State of Improvement in February 1793.

[Each particular ſtate being made out by two different farmers, who gave in a ſigned report.]

	Ground in turnip of laſt crop.	Old ſown graſs, proper for paſture.	New ſown graſs, proper for hay.	Hay in ſtacks.	Ground incloſed, turf fences.	Ditto, earth, lined with ſtone.
	Acres.	Do.	Do.	Stones.	Acres.	Do.
Nethermuir, - -	34	121	128	2718	100	200
Culſh & Artamford, -	16	30	100	1000	240	100
Drum & Auchmaliddy,	10	3	25	1100	12	
Mickle & Little Auchridy,	19	60	29	2480	280	8
Cairnbanno & Auchmunyiel,	10	36	81	970	52	47
Whytehill & Brucklay,	37½	178	68	2250	151	130
Gorbſhill & Alathan, -	13	55	20	660	41	
Savok & Auchnagat, -	16	87	59	7530	17	162
Fedderat, - -	38	86	100	165		
Totals,	193½	547	560	18873	893	637

The above ſtate comprehends the whole pariſh, except the lands of Oldmaud and Aflect, which, lying in the lower part of the pariſh, may be conſidered as equal to others of the like extent and rent; and the neareſt to them in both theſe

theſe reſpects, are the lands of Culſh and Artamford. With reſpect to the incloſures, it is not pretended, that they are all ſufficient fences; perhaps no incloſure, properly ſpeaking, is a ſufficient fence on both ſides, but what is built entirely of ſtone; and tenants poſſeſſing only a 19 years leaſe, cannot be ſuppoſed to be at the expenſe of ſtone fences, when they have no allowance or encouragement for them. In the laſt ſtate there is no notice taken of hay crop, it being the opinion of the farmers who gave it in, that no true judgment could be formed of the uſual crops of hay from the produce of laſt year, on account of the ſupernumerary cattle on hand, till ſummer was near over, which conſumed a great deal of graſs, uſually made into hay.

Air, Climate and Diſeaſes.—This pariſh ſeems to have a conſiderable elevation above the level of the ſea, and moſt of the neighbouring pariſhes, as will appear from a circumſtance to be mentioned afterward. The air is conſequently ſharp and pure; and the ſeaſons generally a week or fortnight later, than in many places in its vicinity. In winter the froſt is ſometimes ſo intenſe, as to put a ſtop to the plough; when nearer the coaſt it meets with no obſtruction. Laſt winter, (1791-2,) it occaſioned a ceſſation from tillage for 8 or 9 weeks. Snow lies very long upon the ground, and, in the higher part of the pariſh, ſometimes falls to a conſiderable depth, when 2 or 3 miles eaſtward the fields are clothed in their blaſted verdure. Here, too, we have often what are called ſummer-ſhowers, which are very partial. A cloud is carried along a tract of ground, ſometimes not more than 500 or 600 yards wide, pouring down a temporary deluge. In winter, again, a ſhower of ſnow, inſtead of rain, frequently paſſes over a like extent, and in the ſame direction. The phyſical cauſe ſeems to be

be a frequent interchange of clouds between the ſummits of 2 oppoſite hills, Bennachie and Mormond. The former is diſtant from us about 20 miles S. W. the latter about 8 or 9 miles N. E. But this obſervation is not to be confined to this place alone; for ſuch phœnomena, I believe, are common to almoſt every part of Scotland.—There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh. Rheumatiſm is the moſt general complaint among the men, and nervous diſorders among the women. To account for the prevalence of theſe diſorders, I need only mention the employment of the former, which, after hard exerciſe in the morning, is to go out and ſtir a damp field; and the ſedentary occupation of the latter, which is chiefly ſpinning or knitting of ſtockings. Scrofulous, conſumptive, and aſthmatic complaints are not ſo common. In autumn 1791, a putrid kind of ſore throat, which firſt made its appearance about the coaſt ſide, found its way into this pariſh. Since that, it has continued to rage in different places, with great virulence, and little intermiſſion, and is peculiarly fatal to the young, and people of a full conſtitution. No effectual remedy has yet been diſcovered for this contagious diſorder; and the only approved medicines are a vomit at firſt, and then Jeſuit's bark, continued ſeveral times a-day, in a glaſs of Port wine. A very malignant fever, too, has prevailed this winter. Some were carried off by it in eight days illneſs, while others have been languiſhing as many weeks.

Natural Hiſtory, Antiquities, &c.—There is neither a wood, hill nor river in the pariſh; conſequently no quadrupeds, migratory or aquatic birds, but ſuch as are common: nor are there any remarkable foſſils. There is, however, reaſon to believe, that this pariſh once abounded in wood; for veſtiges of oak, hazel, and other hard wood, (but no fir), are to be found in every moſs. Springs and rivulets,

rivulets, ſufficient for driving mills and light machinery, are very plenty. There are alſo ſome chalybeate wells, but none of theſe have attained to any great repute. On a farm in the head of the pariſh there are 3 contiguous ſprings, which run in as many different directions. One of them runs eaſtward, increaſing conſiderably in its courſe, till it joins the water of Strichen. Theſe form the water of Ugie, which falls into the ſea at Peterhead. Another of them runs ſouthward into Ythan, and falls into the ſea at Newburgh. The third runs N. W. into Doveran, and falls into the ſea at Banff. This is the circumſtance above alluded to, and from which we inferred the height of the pariſh.—Remains of ſeveral Druidical temples are to be ſeen. The place where one of them ſtood is about half a mile N. from the church, and ſtill retains the name of "ſtanding ſtones." In view of this, and about a mile from the church, directly S. there was another. This is not yet all removed, and the former was but lately taken away, to lay the foundation of the preſent manſe. There are alſo ſeveral tumuli or ſmall cairns, ſome of which have been dug up, and found to contain urns incloſed in ſtone coffins. The coffins were compoſed of flags of ſtone from 3 to 4 feet long, and ſo cloſely laid together, that no duſt could penetrate. The urns, which to the eye appeared quite ſound, but mouldered at a touch, were placed near one of the corners, and contained fragments of human bones and aſhes. About 2 miles north from the church ſtands an old caſtle, called *Fedderatt*, which appears to have been a place of conſiderable ſtrength. It is ſurrounded partly by a foſſe, and partly by a moraſs, ſo that there could have been no acceſs to it, but by a cauſeway (which is ſtill viſible) and a draw-bridge. Water, it ſeems, had been conveyed to it by means of pipes; for pieces of them have, at different times, been torn up by the plough. Accord-

ing

ing to tradition, it was built by one Crawford; but at what time we cannot learn. It afterward came into the poſſeſſion of the Irvines of Drum, and is now the property of Lord Aberdeen. It is alſo ſaid to have been one of the laſt ſtrong holds of James II.'s partiſans, who, after the battle of Killycrankie, poſſeſſed themſelves of Fyvie caſtle, and, being obliged to abandon it, took refuge in Fedderatt; but were purſued, and expelled by King William's troops. In the weſt ſide of the pariſh there is an extenſive piece of moor, called *Brucehill*. This is ſaid to have been ſo named from Edward, brother to King Robert Bruce. Here he is reported to have encamped ſoon after the battle of Inverury, and from this to have marched in purſuit of the Cummins, to a place near the village of Deer, called *Aiky-brae*, or *Oaky-brae*. And this is partly corroborated by Joan Major, (de. geſt. Scot. Fol. 83. lib. 5.) who relates, that Edward there engaged and routed the Cummins in the year 1308. In memory of this victory, the market of Aiky fair is ſaid to have been eſtabliſhed, which ſtands on the ſpot where the battle was fought.

Population, &c.—From the return made to Dr Webſter 40 or 50 years ſince, the number of ſouls then was 2313. The amount of the preſent population is 2800 ſouls, of whom 1324 are males, and 1476 females. Theſe are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 156 Seceders, (there being a Seceding meeting-houſe in the pariſh,) 40 Epiſcopalians, and 6 Roman Catholics.

Under 10 years of age,	480
Between 10 and 20,	455
—— 20 and 30,	449
—— 30 and 40,	382
—— 40 and 50,	353

Between 50 and 60,	284
60 and 70,	238
70 and 80,	116
80 and 90,	38
90 and 100,	4
at or above 100,	1

There are 11 heritors, 4 of whom, at preſent, reſide. Tradeſmen and mechanics, excluding apprentices, are as follows: Merchants, 20; tailors, 28; weavers, 27; wrights, 25; ſmiths, 19; ſhoemakers, 17; maſons, 7; dyers, 2; and 1 phyſician. The annual average of baptiſms for 7 years previous to 1783, is 50$\frac{4}{7}$; and for 9 years ſince, ending 1791, it is but 33$\frac{2}{9}$. The only cauſe that can be aſſigned for this decreaſe, is the tax upon regiſtration; for, ſince this tax commenced, there are many children (particularly females) born and baptized in the pariſh, whoſe names are not inſerted in the regiſter; becauſe their parents are unwilling to pay the duty. This indeed is not ſo much the caſe in regard to males, for two very obvious reaſons, the chance of emigrations, and the difficulty of getting an exemption from labour upon the public roads, without an atteſted extract from the regiſter to ſhow that they are ſuperannuated. It was therefore deemed proper to give the average of baptiſms, previous to the date of the act, becauſe no certain concluſion, with regard to population, can be drawn from them ſince that period, and, even before, many of them were never deſired to be regiſtered; otherwiſe, inſtead of 50, the average number would have amounted nearly to 70.—Marriages and burials only began to be regiſtered in 1785; and the average of the former, for 7 years ending 1791, is 18$\frac{3}{7}$, and 31$\frac{3}{7}$ burials. But neither of theſe can afford any certain *data* for calculation, for many ſtrangers are buried

here, many pariſhioners are carried to neighbouring burying grounds, and many are not regiſtered at all, in conſequence of the duty not being paid; and marriages are regiſtered only when the bride reſides in the pariſh. The preſent number of inhabitants, at a moderate calculation, is one-third greater than it was 30 or 40 years ago. This increaſe is to be aſcribed to the parcelling out of large farms, and the abundance of moſs and lime. The number of ploughs is about 230, of old ploughgates 80, of horſes 712, of cattle 3200, and of ſheep there may be from 1300 to 1400. Small farms, rent from L. 5 to L. 10; middle-ſized farms from L. 10 to L. 20; large farms from L. 30 to L. 40: there is one at L. 50, and another about L. 80. A general meaſurement of the pariſh has never been made; nor can it be preciſely ſtated what is the rent the acre. Where ſurveyors have been employed, they have uſually rated the outfield at 6 s. and the infield at 12 s.; but the infield now generally lets from 12 s. to 18 s. or 20 s. and the outfield nearly in proportion.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The preſent ſtipend is 600 merks Scots, 4 chalders of meal, and L. 5 Sterling for communion-elements. The glebe, including manſe and offices, &c. is ſcarcely 4 acres and a half. The Crown is patron. The age of the preſent incumbent is 86, and who has been miniſter for 56 years.—There is a very good ſchool-houſe; the number of ſcholars, at an average through the year, is between 30 and 40. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about L. 4 Sterling. This, with 30 s. as ſeſſion-clerk, ſchool-fees, and ſome other ſmall perquiſites, may amount to L. 12 yearly, which is all his emolument.—The number of poor on the roll is 60 and upwards. The annual amount of the funds for their relief, ariſing from the weekly collections, intereſt of money, &c. is about L. 50. This, with

with the charitable aid of their neighbours, removes the neceſſity of their becoming vagrants, and makes them live pretty comfortably.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are remarkably ſober and humane, and very diligent in their callings. There is but 1 licenſed public houſe, and but little frequented, except by travellers. The induſtry of thoſe in the farming line here, as in moſt places, is not always attended with that ſucceſs which might be wiſhed. Seaſons and circumſtances, for ſome years, have been much againſt them. Since 1782 the harveſts have been very late and precarious. The price of meal (which, at an average, may be valued at 12 s. the boll) bears no proportion to the price of every article the farmer has to buy. But what is moſt complained of at preſent, is the extravagant wages of their ſervants, which, for ſome years, have advanced at the rate of 10 s. the year *. For theſe reaſons, the condition of mechanics and ſubtenants (who depend more upon their trade than the produce of the ground, and do not require ſervants) is preferable to that of farmers. The condition of the farmers, as well as of the farms, might be meliorated by longer leaſes; and by converting, at a moderate rate, that part of their rent which is paid in kind into money. This would leave the farmer at more liberty to proſecute that mode of farming which he found moſt ſucceſsful; whereas, when a large proportion of his rent is paid in meal, he is tempted

* The pound here is Amſterdam weight, as at Aberdeen; and butter uſually ſells at, from 7 d. to 9 d. the pound; cheeſe, from 4 s. to 5 s. the ſtone; beef and mutton, from 2 d. to 3 d. the pound; hens, from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. a pair; ducks a little higher; and eggs from 3 d. to 6 d. the dozen. Wages of a man ſervant are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; of a maid ſervant, from L. 3 to L. 4; of day-labourers, 8 d. a-day, with victuals, or 1 s. without.

tempted to overcrop, that he may make ſure his rent. The moor and waſte ground might be improved by letting it, free of rent, for a certain number of years. This inducement would do more than counterbalance every obſtacle; for the moſt of it is dry, free of ſtones, of a ſandy bottom, and the means of improvement at hand. Encouragement for incloſing, eſpecially where the leaſes are ſhort, would be beneficial. The multures exacted at mills are conſidered as a grievance, and ſome of the heritors are converting them into money. The diſtance from any ſea-port, or market place, is another diſadvantage. This, however, might in a great meaſure be removed, by leading a canal from Peterhead to the neighbouring pariſh of Deer; which, by moſt people, is thought not impracticable. If a fund ſufficient for this purpoſe could not be raiſed by contribution in the neighbourhood, application might be made to Government for ſome aſſiſtance, which is ſeldom made in vain, when public utility is the petitioner.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF KINNETTLES,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID FERNEY.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.

THE name is of Gaelic derivation, and ſignifies "out "from the bogg." This name applies with peculiar propriety to the old manſion-houſe of the eſtate of Kinnettles, which was built cloſe to a piece of marſhy ground, ſtill called the Bogg *. The church being built within the boundaries of this eſtate, that circumſtance probably gave the name of Kinnettles to the pariſh. The form of the pariſh is nearly a ſquare, having about 2 Engliſh miles for the length of each of its 4 ſides. The ſouth line or boundary ſeems, however, to be rather ſhorter than any of the other three. The pariſh is divided by a hill, one part of which is called Brigton, the other Kinnettles. The hill is arable, except a few acres of rocky land on that

* The manſion-houſe is now removed about a furlong farther from the marſh.

that diviſion of it which belongs to Kinnettles, which are planted. There are a few acres of woodland on the Brigton ſide. The hill continues to deſcend to the S. within a ſmall diſtance from a rivulet which runs through the ſouthern diſtrict of the pariſh. The weſtern deſcent contains 4 incloſures, and then dies away into flat land. The northern continues the length of 3 incloſures; afterward the land is rather level, comprehending 3 incloſures alſo. There is a like number on the eaſtern deſcent, which is divided into two parts. South of the rivulet a range of ſloping banks declines to the N. as far as the rivulet. The plantations and pleaſure grounds of Brigton extend on both ſides of the little river with a ſweep about an Engliſh mile in length. The houſes of Brigton, Kinnettles, Inverighty, with the pleaſure ground, have a good effect.—Our ſoil is various, conſiſting ſome of it of brown clay, ſome of loam, of loam with a mixture of clay, of loam with a mixture of ſand; ſome of it is in quality almoſt mere ſand. Of this laſt kind there is but a ſmall proportion. Our clay and black ſoil are deep and fertile; ſome of the ſtrong land yields from 8 to 12 bolls an acre, particularly in oats after ley, when it is well laid down. Even the light ſoil has produced good crops with marl and kindly treatment.—The air is not ſo much infeſted with fogs as in ſome other diſtricts in Scotland, being rather dry and healthful. We have no diſeaſes that can be ſaid to be local. Agues are ſcarcely known; fevers not epidemical; melancholy habits are equally rare here as in moſt other diſtricts. The moſt epidemical fever in my remembrance, was about the beginning of ſpring 1789, after an uncommonly wet winter, in a village low and wet. Our air is ſharp in winter, and froſty in proportion as the Grampians are covered with ſnow. We have ſeveral freeſtone quar-

ries,

ries, which are made uſe of for building houſes and fences; ſome of them yield ſtones well adapted for the purpoſe of hewing.

Animals.—Cattle and horſes are in conſiderable numbers, 607 of the former, 130 of the latter. No ſheep, but a few (about 40) kept principally for the uſe of gentlemens families *. The farmers in the pariſh rarely follow the plan of rearing cattle on their beſt farms; they rather buy in and fatten. Were they, however, to adopt the plan of rearing, they have the means of ſo doing up to 36 and 80 ſtone weight, when the cattle have attained the age of 4 or 5 years; and ſuch cattle would bring, if fat, from 5s. to 7s. the ſtone, according to the demand and the pitch to which they may happen to be fed.

Population, &c.—According to the return made to Dr Webſter in 1755, the number of ſouls was then 616. The ſtate of population cannot be traced far back with any degree of exactneſs. The taſte for enlarging farms, and razing cottages, has contributed not a little to diminiſh the number of inhabitants in this and moſt country pariſhes in Angus. This diminution, however, is not ſo great as might be expected from the number of houſes demoliſhed. Farmers and others, keep more female ſervants than are neceſſary, ſolely for the buſineſs of huſbandry, and the ſervice of their families. When not engaged in domeſtic and farming buſineſs, they can find employment for them in ſpinning yarn for the green linen manufacturers. But the

* We have no migratory birds, except green plovers, ſwallows, and the cuckoo, which appear in the month of April; and the woodcock, in the beginning of winter. The ſwallow diſappears about the month of September, the cuckoo about the month of July.

the number gained in this manner is not equal to the number loſt by the razing of houſes. The amount of the preſent population is 621, comprehending all ages; males 325; females 296. There is no town in the pariſh, only 1 village, containing 78. The number of births for 10 years preceding April 1790, was 165, making 16½ yearly. There is no regiſter of deaths kept here. Since 1783, on account of the tax, there has been a regiſter of burials, which contains all that have been buried here, whether pariſhioners or ſtrangers. This would have given certain information of the deaths in the pariſh, had it not been cuſtomary here not to confine the burying of their dead to the churchyard of the pariſh. From October 1783 to October 1790, there have been 28 marriages. But this article may readily occaſion a miſtake, and a return of many more marriages may poſſibly be given than have actually taken place in it. When the bridegroom reſides in one pariſh, and the bride in another, there may be a report of the ſame marriage from both theſe pariſhes.

Males.		Females.	
Under 10,	68	Under 10,	49
From 10 to 20,	91	From 10 to 20,	81
—— 20 to 50,	116	—— 20 to 50,	118
—— 50 to 70,	42	—— 50 to 70,	43
—— 70 to 100,	8	—— 70 to 100,	5

The oldeſt inhabitant at preſent is a woman in her 90th year, and 2 men going 85. I recollect no tradition of remarkable old age here. Excluſive of pendicle tackſmen, who depend not on farming alone for their ſubſiſtence, we have 16 farmers, beſides 2 gentlemen who farm part of their own eſtates. Their families in all contain 167 perſons. There are 3 farms, on which the poſſeſſors do not

reſide; and 1 of theſe yields the higheſt rent. The circumſtance of non-reſidence on theſe farms diminiſhes conſiderably the number of this claſs. The number of heritors is 5, and 2 of them reſide. The number of manufacturers is 58; of handicraftſmen, 20; apprentices, 6. Houſehold ſervants are 5 male, 16 female. There are 76 labouring ſervants, 51 male, 25 female; here I have marked only hired ſervants. With moſt of our farmers, the ſons and daughters of the family ſupply, in a conſiderable degree, the place of ſervants. There is 1 artiſt employed in conducting a flax-yarn mill. Labouring ſervants often go from one pariſh to another. We have 2 reſiding heritors, Mr Douglas of Brigton, and Mr Bower of Kinnettles, or of Kincaldrum. Their families conſiſt of 25 perſons, excluſive of domeſtic ſervants. Lord Strathmore is one of the heritors, but has no manſion-houſe here; alſo Mr Simſon of Inverighty, who has a manſion-houſe here, but reſides in Edinburgh. There is 1 clergyman, 26 Epiſcopalians, 5 Roman Catholics, 1 Seceder, 589 of the Eſtabliſhed Church, 93 married men, 45 bachelors at the age of 21, widowers, 123 marriages, upon an average, may produce $5\frac{14}{15}$. There is no account of any having died of want. No recollection of murders or ſuicides, except one ſuicide committed by a woman about 20 years ſince *. Very few have emi-

* We have bands of ſturdy beggars, male and female, or, as they are uſually called, tinkers; whoſe inſolence, idleneſs, and diſhoneſty, are an affront to the police of our country. Theſe perſons are ready for prey of all kinds. Every thing that can ſupply them with proviſions, or bring them money, is their ſpoil, if it can be obtained with any appearance of ſafety. They file off in ſmall parties, and have their places of rendezvous, where they chooſe to billet themſelves at leaſt for one day; nor do they fail generally to make good their quarters, as the farmer is afraid to refuſe to anſwer their demands, or to complain of the oppreſſion under which he labours.

grated. None have been baniſhed, or obliged to leave the pariſh for want of employment. No uninhabited houſes. The number of the inhabited is 126; the proportion of houſes to the number of inhabitants is as 1 : $4\frac{117}{126}$. On account of the increaſed ſize of farms, and the practice of incloſing, population does not ſeem to be ſo great now as it was 25 years ago. Farmers were then accuſtomed to have 1 or 2 houſes on their farms, with a ſmall quantity of land, which were intended for the accommodation of one or two married ſervants. Since the incloſing and labouring of ground with attention have taken place, that accommodation for married ſervants is withdrawn, and other ſervants are thereby diſcouraged from marrying. The ſervant finds, too, that when married, he cannot ſo eaſily find a place with a farmer, whom, perhaps, he would be moſt willing to ſerve; nor are maſters, in general, fond of retaining married ſervants. In fact, there is no claſs among whom marriages are ſo infrequent, as farmers ſervants.

Productions, Agriculture, &c.—Almoſt all the vegetables, plants and trees in Scotland are to be found here, and thrive in our ſoil and climate; and we have ſuch animals as are common to the low countries of Scotland. Rent of beſt arable land is from 18 s. to L. 1, 5s. the acre. Size of farms is from 42 to 200 acres, and upwards. Farms, at an average, about L. 88 yearly. There is at leaſt 4-5ths of the pariſh incloſed. The number of acres under the different crops, at preſent, is nearly as follows:—583 in oats, 335 in barley, 26 in wheat, 33 in peaſe, 28 in lint, 84 in turnips, 22 in potatoes, 174 in cutting graſs, and 777 in paſture; amounting in all to nearly 2065½ acres. There are 31 ploughs, drawn by 3 or 4 horſes; 56 carts; 1 coach; 1 two-wheeled chaiſe. Excluſive of what ſome heritors retain in their

own

own hands, the land-rent of the pariſh may be about L. 1600 Sterling. The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with proviſions. Beſides what is ſufficient for that purpoſe, a conſiderable quantity of oat-meal is ſent to the neighbouring towns; and perhaps $\frac{1}{10}$ of our barley is conveyed partly to the towns in the county, and partly to others at a greater diſtance, to be manufactured there. The attention of our farmers has never been turned to the raiſing of hemp. We know not what it is in this country to turn land into graſs, without ſowing it with graſs-ſeeds. All our hay-graſs, and paſture on land fit for tillage, are artificial graſſes. We have ſome paſture (about 120 acres) on mire and moſs ground, which is natural graſs; ſuch lands having not, as yet, been brought under culture. There are about 20 acres of moor, and 12 or 16 of plantations. The graſs-ſeeds ſown here are red and white clover, about 19 or 20 lb. to the acre, 2-3ds red, and 1-3d white. We add 6 or 8 pecks of rye-graſs ſeed, which has frequently a mixture of rib-graſs or plantane. Commonly this artificial graſs is cut the two firſt years for hay, and houſe-feeding for cows and horſes in ſummer. I attempted once to introduce the tall yellow clover, and commiſſioned a quantity of the ſeed of that graſs, as being of a leſs dangerous quality than the red clover. I was diſappointed, having got only a dwarf, grovelling, unprofitable kind, inſtead of that which I commiſſioned. I never attempted to introduce it again, nor has it as yet found its way into the pariſh *.

Stipend,

* Our wheat, in general, is ſown from the end of September to the 20th of October. We ſow oats as ſoon as the ground is ſufficiently dry for receiving it. Sometimes land is fit for ſeed in February, as in 1779; at other times, not till the middle of April. The deſirable time for our ſoil, in general, is to begin about the 10th or 15th of March. On dry land, in good condition, with a good ſeaſon, there will be a luxuriant crop, though

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend, in money, is L. 44 : 3 : $3\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling; in victual, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalder of barley, each kind valued at 13 s. 4 d. which, with the old glebe, about 6 acres, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of moor, obtained in lieu of a ſervitude, at L. 1, 10 s. the acre, the whole may be rated at L. 88 : 18 : 3. In point of benefit, I am much at a loſs how to eſtimate a glebe. A miniſter labouring it at the expenſe of L. 14 for a man-ſervant's wages

though ſown ſo early. In wettiſh land and not into ſuch order, there will be little ſtraw, and altogether a deficient crop, if it be not ſown conſiderably later. Engliſh barley, which demands our beſt ſoil, and in the higheſt condition, requires to be ſown from the 20th of April to the 5th of May, in order to produce good and ſufficiently early grain; Scotch barley, from the beginning to the 15th of May; common Scotch bear, from the 10th to the 25th of May. Our peaſe are of the haſtings kind, and do not require to be ſown before the middle or 20th of April. Lint-ſeed, from the 20th to the end of April. It was earlier with ſome laſt ſeaſon, by 14 or 20 days; but where this was the caſe, the ſeed lay uncommonly long in the ground without ſhooting; ſome of it was ſickly during a good part of ſummer; nor could it be ſaid to be ſooner ready for pulling, than that which had been ſown about the uſual time. Smart nights and mornings are frequent about the end of April, rendering the lint crop very uncertain, if it get above ground before the 1ſt of May. They plant potatoes from the 20th of April to the beginning of May; and ſow turnips from the 10th to the 20th or 22d of June. The reaping time muſt vary according to the nature of the ſummer. Hay, which is not intended for ſeed, is cut from the 1ſt to the 10th of July; what is intended for rye-graſs ſeed, 8 or 10 days later. Lint harveſt is from the 12th to the 25th of Auguſt, ſometimes a few days later. The earlieſt and lateſt commencement of barley harveſt, which I remember, was the 15th of Auguſt, and the laſt day of September. In the years 1775, 1779, and 1783, the barley harveſt began from the 15th to the 18th of Auguſt; in the year 1782, it began the laſt day of September. The barley harveſt uſually begins about the 1ſt or 5th of September. Wheat is cut down about the ſame time with barley. Our barley, for the moſt part, begins to be cut down about 10 or 14 days before the beginning of oat harveſt. In 1779, the corns on dry farms were all got in by the 10th or 12th of September. In 1782, they were not got in with ſome till the 22d of November; with others, ſome days later.

wages and board, with two horſes kept for the purpoſe, muſt be a conſiderable loſer. It was an unlucky circumſtance, in aſſigning land to miniſters, that the Legiſlature did not think of allotting more. 20 or 25 acres might have been managed with very little additional expenſe. The Crown is patron. The manſe was built in 1737, and was repaired in 1785. The time at which the church was built is not known; it got a repair a good many years ago.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 5. Number of ſcholars, from 20 to 30, at 1 s. 3 d. the quarter, for 3 quarters of the year. The fees are L. 4 : 13 : 9; fees for regiſtration of baptiſms and marriages, and ſalary as ſeſſion-clerk, L. 2 : 8 : 4. The amount of the whole is L. 12 : 2 : 1; a ſum leſs by L. 2 Sterling than the income of a common labourer.—The number of poor is 7. The annual contributions are about L. 13, 16 s. There are ſome ſeats in the church belonging to the poor, which yield L. 2, 12 s. yearly. Intereſt of money, about L. 2, 8 s. In all, L. 18, 16 s. *.

Miſcellaneous

* The price of meat, 40 years ago, may be rated at 1 d. the pound. Now all kinds of butcher meat, of the beſt quality, fetch from 3½ d. to 4 d. the pound. Hens were then 4 d. and now about 1 s. and other poultry in the ſame proportion. Butter, 40 years ago, was 4 d the pound; now it fetches from 7½ d. to 10 d. Cheeſe, I preſume, was not ſold by weight at the diſtance of 40 years, but was then proportionably low; now it ſells from 5 s. to 6 s. the ſtone, the ſtone conſiſting of 24 Engliſh pounds. Wheat is now from 18 s. to L. 1, 7 s.; bear, from 10 s. to L. 1. Theſe higheſt prices of wheat and barley have not been paid for many years, except in 1782. The uſual price of barley and oat-meal is from 12 s. to 16 s. Forty years ago, grain was in general from 3 s. to 5 s. cheaper.—Wages, without board, for a day-labourer, are 1 s. or 1 s. 1 d.; a carpenter, 1 s. 4 d.; tailor, 1 s. 1 d.; bricklayer and maſon, 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.—The fuel generally made uſe of is peat. Gentlemen uſe coal in their families; it is alſo part of the fuel in ſome farm-houſes. Many burn nothing but peat, broom, and furze. We are under the neceſſity of reſorting for peat to a neighbouring pariſh, at the diſtance of about 2 Engliſh miles from a great part of this diſtrict. Any moſs we have in the

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—We labour under no diſadvantages, but ſuch as are common to us with almoſt all the county of Angus; the want of ſalt, lime and coal. We have all the advantages which are enjoyed by other inland diſtricts; and are ſupplied with marl from pits near the boundaries of the pariſh. Houſes unconnected with land, dont yield, I think, L. 12 Sterling. Farm houſes are in *cumulo* with the farms. Such houſes being now an article of conſiderable expenſe, the landlords begin to ſpecify a rent, according to a certain rate of intereſt on the money laid out in building, *viz.* about 7 *per cent.*—The writer

the pariſh, is not dug. Our coals are from the Forth, by ſea-carriage to Dundee. Moſs-dues to the proprietor, are 9 d. in one moſs, 6 d. in another, the cart-load. The uſual price of coal is 4 s. the boll, the boll weighing 56 ſtone.—The rate of common labourers wages is the ſame as that of farmers ſervants.

Huſbands wages, - - -	L. 8 0 0
Meal, in place of maintenance, 2 pecks a-week, with milk,	5 17 0
Induſtry of the wife, beſides the care of the family, -	2 12 0
Amount of their funds for one year, -	L. 16 9 0

This a-week is 6 s. $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. I make no doubt but it may ſuffice for the plain diet and clothing which ſuch families uſe. Let us ſuppoſe the family to be numerous, I allow only the huſband and wife, and 5 children, to depend on this weekly allowance, viz. one child of 8 years, one of 6, one of 4, one of 2, and an infant. When the youngeſt of theſe 5 is born, a boy or girl of the family, who had reached the age of 10 years, goes to ſervice, and the burden of that child is taken away. A boy or girl at 8 years of age becomes uſeful in the family, and enables the mother to uſe her induſtry for increaſing their funds. When a few of the children get above 10 years, they increaſe the living of the family very conſiderably. If the labourer be a farmer's ſervant, the farmer generally allows him a day for digging peats, and ſome draughts of carts for bringing home his fuel.---The wages of male ſervants, in huſbandry, are in general about L. 8 Sterling, with maintenance in the family, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of oat-meal yearly, with a ſufficient quantity of milk. A maid-ſervant has L. 3 Sterling, with maintenance.

writer of the Roman department of the Univerſal Hiſtory, is ſaid to have been a native of this pariſh.—The people in general are of an equal degree of ſtrength, compared with the inhabitants of other counties in Scotland. We have ſome who may be accounted ſtrong. One man, in particular, might ſtand high in the liſt of ſtrong men in any county of Britain. The talleſt man, within our bounds, wants, I think, about half an inch of 6 feet high. They are of different ſizes, from about 6 feet down to 5 feet 4 or 5 inches, perhaps a very few below that height. The ordinary ſtature is about 5 feet 7 inches. Women, in general, are about 5 feet high. Excluſive of ſhoes, we have ladies, whoſe height is from 5 feet 4 to 5 feet 7 inches. The complexions of the people, are ſome ruddy, ſome pale. They have all, however, a healthy appearance; and are pretty remarkable for an acuteneſs of genius, which enables them to attain to dexterity in the different occupations in which they employ their talents.—The people are very much diſpoſed to induſtry. The only manufacture is green linen, or oſnaburgh. There are 58 hands employed in that branch of weaving. We have a ſpinning mill for flax yarn. It is on a ſmall ſcale, intended to contain 120 pirns. A corn mill is converted to that purpoſe. It is in contemplation of the Company to extend their plan, if the experiment now making ſhall anſwer their expectations. In the mean time, they are buſy adjuſting their apparatus, of which they have made trial; and the yarn which it throws, looks well, and is thought to be of a very good quality. This work is carrying on by virtue of a leaſe of patent privilege from a Company in England.—We have but very few inſtances of fondneſs for a ſeafaring life. Nor are the people much addicted to a military one: the army not having, at any period, in the memory of man, obtained any conſiderable ſupply here.

here. The inhabitants in general are œconomical, and augment, rather than diminiſh their ſtock. They are well clothed and fed. Superior induſtry affords them a plentiful ſupply of the neceſſaries and comforts of life. Among one claſs, however, œconomy does not ſeem to have been much regarded.—The whole landed property has been transferred by ſale ſince the year 1743. Prices of land have been, I preſume, about 25 years purchaſe, or perhaps a little more.—We have few calls for extraordinary exertions of humanity: in clamant caſes of diſtreſs, I can eaſily believe our people capable of extraordinary beneficence. They enjoy, in a conſiderable degree, the advantages and comforts of ſociety: contented with their accommodation, few remove to diſtant parts of the country, or emigrate to foreign countries.—The circumſtances moſt extenſively diſtreſſing, are thoſe which affect the manufacturers of green linen. They depend on two countries, Ruſſia for their raw materials, and the Weſt Indies and part of America for the ſale of their manufacture. A bad crop of flax in Ruſſia, or the jobbing ſpirit of the merchants there, or extraordinary profits to the importers of the flax, often reduce the profits of theſe manufacturers to a mere trifle. This evil, I think, might be removed, if flax raiſing could be brought to a ſyſtem, which would render a flax crop equally certain with any other crop. Our ſoil is pretty much adapted to the raiſing of flax, and the plan of farming here is ſuch, that the farmer could eaſily employ a few acres in cultivating it. In this caſe, there would be only the chance of the ſale market againſt the manufacturers. But although grievances were redreſſed as much as poſſible, it is ſtill a queſtion, whether that is not the moſt deſirable manufacture which is ſupplied with materials from the country itſelf, and has the benefit of a home market, founded on the natural demand of the inhabitants

for the manufactured articles *.—As to the manners of the people, they are diſtinguiſhed from thoſe of a period 30 or 40 years ago, as there is more induſtry, attention, enterpriſe and ſobriety. Their cuſtoms are much the ſame

* The public road from Perth, through Strathmore, which paſſes thro' this pariſh, is repairing on a new plan, and will ſoon be finiſhed within our bounds, unleſs it ſhall be deemed neceſſary to widen it. It was begun to be repaired in autumn 1789. Owing to the ſpirited plan of ſubſcriptions from the gentlemen in the county, the road from Forfar to Dundee, part of which paſſes through this pariſh, is proceeding on the ſame plan. All the county roads in Angus are to be repaired from the ſubſcription-fund. We are much indebted to the exertions of Mr Douglas of Brigton, who tranſacts and ſuperintends the buſineſs of the road from Forfar to Dundee, and for ſeveral miles on the Strathmore road. To render the road convenient, ſteep banks are avoided, and on Mr Douglas's ground in this pariſh, the road takes a new direction for 1½ miles through incloſures of land of very excellent quality. The rule is not to admit, if poſſible, above 1 foot of riſe in 20. Theſe roads have turnpikes, and all the county roads either have or are to have them. Our farmers are much reconciled to turnpikes, and imagine that the accommodation obtained in this way, is cheap. Statute labour is not exacted in kind. Since the plan by ſubſcription took place, the commutation-money is to be applied to the repairing of the private roads. We have two bridges in the pariſh; one on the road from Forfar to Glammis, was built by ſubſcription, at leaſt in part, about 21 years ſince, and is in good condition; the other, on the road from Forfar to Dundee, is intended to be taken down, and another built at ſome ſmall diſtance.—In the year 1782, our drieſt lands were not fit for receiving ſeed till the 16th or 17th of April. There was not a blade of oats to be ſeen till about the 12th of May, in this neighbourhood, which is rather an early diſtrict. The barley-ſeed time was very backward. About the 29th of May, we had rain for 50 hours, without intermiſſion. The ſummer was cold and wet; and on the 16th of Auguſt, we had an uncommon flood, which chilled the ground ſo as to deprive it of the warmth neceſſary for filling and ripening the corns. On the morning of the 12th of September, we had hoarfroſt as thick as at Chriſtmas. About 7 o'clock that morning, the ſun was bright, and had influence ſufficient to melt the froſt; and, in a few minutes, peaſe and potatoes had the look of having been dipped in boiling water. The effect of this froſt made the farmer imagine that harveſt was nigh. The corns aſſumed a whitiſh appearance, and the firſt rain threw it in appearance ſeveral ſtages back.

as at that period. Their dreſs is more gay, and expenſive; their living more plentiful. Though it is not the caſe in this pariſh, to any conſiderable degree, in ſhow, expenſe, manner of living, and dreſs, there is an imitation of ſuperiors creeping into the country. Perhaps 30 years ago, the boundaries between the ranks were more diſtinctly marked, and more attentively obſerved. Inferior ranks begin not to ſcruple to invade the boundaries of thoſe above them. The genius of the people leads them to induſtry and enterpriſe; beſides, they are very communicative. This diſpoſition ſuffers no experiment to lie concealed, either as to the manner

back. The corns were changed from green to whitiſh, and from whitiſh to green, according as froſt or rain happened to prevail. Our lower, ableſt, and beſt lands, which will produce 8, 10, or 12 bolls of oats an acre in good years, yielding from 15 to 16, or perhaps 17 pecks of meal the boll, that year yielded 4 or 5 bolls an acre, and theſe yielding not above 8, 10, or 11 pecks of meal the boll. I heard of ſome oats in the county, which yielded only mill duſt, inſtead of meal. Barley of that crop, which was much uſed for meal, fell greatly ſhort, both of its uſual quantity and quality. The higher grounds, raiſed above the region of the noxious hoar-froſts, had a more equal progreſs towards ripening. And theſe high, weak, light grounds, not reaped till the month of November, produced oats, yielding about 15 pecks of meal the boll. Theſe grounds were leſs hurt by the froſt and rain. Of that crop, farmers paying conſiderable rents, could ſcarcely procure as much oat-meal from their farms, as was ſufficient for their own families, and oats for ſowing their ground. People, both in towns and the country, traverſed the country and particularly this pariſh, where we had ſeveral mills, and thought themſelves lucky if they could obtain a peck or two of meal, to ſupply the immediate and urgent demands of their families. They would gladly have given more than the high current price, to have been aſſured of finding it at any particular place. The ſcarcity continued through ſummer 1783; and had it not been for a ſupply of Engliſh oats from Leith, I doubt not but ſome muſt have periſhed for want. Some farmers, foreſeeing the diſtreſſed condition of the country, ſowed ſome barley early. Great quantities of potatoes were planted, and the harveſt of 1783 was early. By theſe means, the country obtained a ſpeedy and pretty plentiful ſupply. Amidſt the ſcarcity of proviſions, there was one comforting circumſtance. The people, in general, were not diſtreſſed for want of money.

ner of conducting it, or as to its ſucceſs. Their ſpirit of enterpriſe makes them eaſily adopt a new plan, when fairly recommended by its ſucceſs; and their induſtry ſecures their doing juſtice to any plan which they may adopt. Free from the fetters of prejudice, they follow, let the leader be whom he will, if they are warranted by fair, well tried, ſucceſsful experiments. That ſpirit has brought this country to be able to ſupport double or triple the number of inhabitants, which it could have done 30 or 40 years ago. A great deal of waſte ground has been brought under culture; and lands which then would have yielded 3 or 4 bolls an acre, now produce 8 or 10, and ſometimes more. This is the caſe, more or leſs, with the country of Strathmore, and in the county of Angus: I know no part of the country where farming is carried on to greater perfection than in this very pariſh.—Beſides a great increaſe in the quantity of corn, there is a conſiderable addition of profit by the rearing and fattening of cattle. Inſtead of the ſtinted and famiſhed breed, of which the farmer's ſtore conſiſted 40 years ago, cattle can now be reared to a conſiderable ſize, and fetch a decent price, to compenſate the trouble and expenſe; fatted cattle generally ſell well. Our farmers fatten through the winter, ſome 10, ſome 16, ſome 20, ſome 30 cattle. Some of theſe are partly fed with turnips, ſtraw and hay; ſome with turnips and hay. Such as are fed wholly on turnips and hay, can be brought to a degree of fatneſs, not exceeded in any part of Scotland. The greateſt part of our paſture and hay foggage is employed for the purpoſe of fattening. Turnip crops keep the land clean, and the great proportion of paſture gives them vigour to produce good corn crops when broken up.—There is a grievance, which, though in one view, it affects but a ſingle individual in a pariſh, yet is very extenſive in its

its influence; I mean the pitiful living of ſchoolmaſters. In fact, there is no occupation among us, or in the country in general, from which greater profits may not be obtained. What extent of learning and qualifications is to be demanded or expected from a perſon, whoſe office yields him hardly the bare neceſſaries of life? I think we are juſt on the verge of having ſchools remaining vacant; the office being ſtripped of every thing that can induce a man of any capacity to accept of it.—Allow me to make another obſervation. In reſpect to the poor, matters ſeem to be very improperly conducted. We are importuned by people from almoſt every county in Scotland; whoſe ſtories may be true or falſe; and whoſe circumſtances may therefore entitle them to charity, or may not. Much good would accrue to the public, if ſuch vagrants were confined to their reſpective pariſhes. Their circumſtances might then be exactly known; temptations to falſehood would be taken away; idleneſs would be prevented; perſons able to contribute in any reſpect to their ſubſiſtence, would be obliged to exert their induſtry, or would ſuffer the reward due to their neglect. Here, however, an objection occurs, namely, That ſome pariſhes, from the ſcantineſs of their funds, and the great number of their poor, are unable to ſupply, in any comfortable manner, all the poor within their bounds. Where collections, dedicated to the ſupport of the poor, are not ſufficient for neceſſary ſupplies, let there be aſſeſſments. This would oblige landed gentlemen, and others, on whom ſuch aſſeſſments might be chiefly laid, to exert themſelves, by introducing manufactures, or other means of ſubſiſtence. The number of poor would thereby be diminiſhed; thoſe who might ſtill need parochial ſupply, would be leſs indigent, and others become able to bear a part of the burden of the unavoidably

poor.

poor. So long as mankind are ſupported by ſtrolling, the induſtry and ingenuity of thouſands muſt be loſt to the community, and vice cheriſhed to a conſiderable degree. —The decreaſe of population in country pariſhes, and the great reſort of people to towns, is an evil much to be regretted. Though this mode ſhould continue, it is not improbable that there may be ſtill a gradual increaſe of inhabitants over Scotland. But the queſtion is, by which of theſe two plans may population be ſuppoſed to increaſe moſt; whether, by a well peopled ſtate of country pariſhes, or by extending and crowding the towns. In all infectious diſtempers, ſuch as fevers, ſmall-pox, meaſles, hooping cough, the danger to children is greateſt in towns. As to inoculated ſmall-pox, the diſtemper may be introduced in towns at a favourable ſeaſon, and, when introduced, it takes its range of infection, and before its courſe is finiſhed, the hot unfavourable ſeaſon arrives, and the diſtemper generally becomes malignant and fatal. In the country, infection from this diſtemper may be more eaſily avoided, and I hope to ſee whole pariſhes taking ſuch rational views of inoculation, as to agree to have all their children, who have not had the diſtemper, put under inoculation, at the ſame time, during the favourable ſeaſon; a victory over prejudice, not to be expected univerſally in large towns. But dropping this conſideration, the ſickly looks of many children, in large, crowded, ill ſituated, or ill conſtructed towns, ſhow that the country is the preferable place for children. Inhabitants of large towns are ſenſible of this, who rejoice in the opportunity of having them ſettled in the country, eſpecially after they have been ailing, as the only means of reſtoring their health and vigour. But how is the prevailing reſort to towns to be prevented, when the preſent taſte is, to raze or ſuffer almoſt every

houſe

houſe to go to decay, which is not conducive to the benefit of a farm? Might not the building one or two neat villages in every country pariſh, be the means of preventing this great concourſe of inhabitants to the towns. They might be erected in a dry ſituation, and calculated for convenience as well as health. Suppoſing theſe villages to be inhabited by mechanics, manufacturers, day-labourers, farmers ſervants and widows, there might be one or two ſmall farmers connected with the village, who might have leiſure, and be induced to perform carriages to the villagers for hire *.

* Perſonal ſervices are ſtill performed here. They are ſpecified and limited. Occupiers of a houſe and garden, or of a houſe, garden, and one or two acres of land, perform ſome days work occaſionally, as the proprietor may happen to require them in the courſe of the year. Such tenants as poſſeſs ground ſufficient to enable them to keep a horſe, beſides the above ſervices, are bound to perform two horſeback carriages in the courſe of the year, as far as Dundee, which is about 12 miles, or to a ſimilar diſtance. Greater tenants are bound to bring a certain number of bolls of coals from Dundee to the proprietors houſe, which require 2 or 3 days work of their carts Beſides, they muſt give a day's work of all their reapers, for cutting down the proprietors corns. Theſe go by the general name of ſervices, in place of the old arrhage and carriage, which were very comprehenſive. *Arrhage*, I take to be from the Latin, *aro*, to till; and implied the driving out of the manure for the proprietor's farm, ploughing and harrowing his ground, reaping in harveſt, and bringing home his hay and corns. The old ſervice of carriage was very unlimited, and very tyrannically exacted.—From 16 to 30 years back, from the preſent time, about 37 cottages were razed, or became ruinous. From 10 to 17 years back, 10 or 11 new cottages have been erected; an increaſe of ſmall houſes has begun to take place; a mill, for ſpinning flax-yarn, is building; and a village is begun, for accommodating the hands to be employed, which will require a conſiderable number of houſes. The employing of cottagers in agriculture, increaſes population. A houſe for accommodating a family, is a conſiderable inducement for a ſervant to marry; and, from having a houſe and an acre or two of land, a ſervant is more inclined to remain in his maſter's ſervice. Hired ſervants are apt to be touchy and petulant, by being leſs dependent, as having it more eaſily in

in their power to remove from one place to another. A hired ſervant, however, has the chance of obtaining more extenſive knowledge, by ſometimes changing his place.—There is no poſt-town nearer than Forfar, about 3 miles diſtant from the centre of this pariſh. We have one ale-houſe; no inn. Ale-houſes are not ſo much reſorted to, as 30 or 40 years ago.

NUM-

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF BALMERINO,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW THOMSON.

Name, Extent, Climate, &c.

THIS pariſh takes its name from a ſmall village upon the banks of the river Tay, anciently ſpelt *Balmurenach*, ſignifying, as would appear from the Gaelic, "Sailors "Town;" and the old abbey of that name is called by Leſlie *Balmuræum*, and by Fordun, *Habitaculum ad Mare*. This pariſh ſtretches along the banks of the Tay in 2 ranges of hills. The medium length from E. to W. by a pretty exact meaſurement, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its breadth from N. to S. nearly $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. It is almoſt a ſemicircle, with the church in the centre, and the northern half of the circle cut off by the Tay. From the above meaſurement, it muſt exceed 3000 Scots acres; about 2-3ds of it is arable, and ſupports more than 700 people old and young. There are no diſeaſes peculiar to the pariſh; on the contrary,

trary, the people may be ſaid to be healthy. There were 4 perſons who died within theſe 10 years upwards of 90; and there are ſeveral now alive above 80 years of age. The wholeſomeneſs of the climate appears alſo from the fruitfulneſs of the females. The preſent incumbent has often, in the courſe of 10 years, had an opportunity of baptizing twins; and there are 2 families in it at preſent, 1 of whom has had thrice twins, and the other has five ſons, now alive, at 2 births: The twins are youngeſt, and were baptized in the 1789.

Soil and Culture.—As the lands lie on riſing banks, they are for the moſt part dry. The ſoil in general is thin and ſharp, but very productive, lies on a gravel, or what is called here a rachelly bottom, except in ſome places where it is tilly, or upon rock, and conſequently wettiſh; and even this is much improved by draining, (which is now begun to be better underſtood), though indeed it is to be wiſhed that the Highland, or ſome other ſociety, would pay attention to that great improvement in agriculture, by offering a premium for the beſt eſſay on the moſt effectual mode of draining lands. The method of culture and cropping varies even in this ſmall pariſh. The ploughing is now generally carried on by two horſes, managed by one ſervant with a pair of long reins, and oxen are ſeldom yoked; yet ſome keep and work them both in the plough, by themſelves, and in carriages. In cropping, ſome adopt the following rotation: Four years in graſs, kept the 2 firſt years for hay, and the 2 laſt laid out into paſture, oats, barley, green crop, or ſummer fallow, with a top dreſſing of lime, wheat, barley, and graſs-ſeeds, and ſo on, having always 5-9ths in green crop and ſummer fallow, 4-9ths in white crop, and never more than 2 white crops in ſucceſſion. Others, with what they call infield land, take 2

years graſs, 1 year in hay, and the other in paſture, oats, barley, oats, green crop, or ſummer fallow, wheat, and barley, with graſs-ſeeds; outfield, 2 years graſs paſtured, oats, barley, oats and graſs-ſeeds. Thoſe that adopt this mode of huſbandry, generally lime on the graſs from 30 to 40 bolls of ſhells an acre, and which, they think, will not admit of more lime for 20 or 30 years afterward. At the ſame time, it muſt be obſerved, that moſt of the outfield is now coming to be infield, from the ſuperior mode of management adopted by the farmers. Some prepare with green crop, ſuch as turnips, potatoes, or peaſe for barley, with graſs ſeeds, 3 years graſs cut for hay 2 years, and paſture the 3d; oats, barley, green crop, and ſo on in rotation; and ſome graſs and oats alternately.

Produce.—The ſoil here is remarkably fitted for barley, and frequently produces large returns from the acre. The wheat, though of a good quality, ſeldom produces ſo much. The oats are good, and have often been known to give 8 ſtone of meal the boll, Linlithgow meaſure. The turnips ſeldom fail to produce a heavy crop. Peaſe and beans are precarious, and cultivated chiefly with a view of preparing the ſoil for the after crop. Potatoes are good in quality, and often give large returns from the acre. Flax, eſpecially in new-drained lands, a weighty crop. The lands produce more of every ſort of grain than is ſufficient for the inhabitants. Moſt of the wheat and barley is ſent by the Tay to the Forth and Canal, and the oats are ſold in the neighbourhood. This pariſh, till within theſe 30 years, did not produce ſo much graſs as to afford paſture for the cattle neceſſary for labouring the ſoil. At that time the farmers were forced to graze out a part, and depended chiefly upon their marſhy grounds for the ſubſiſtence of the remainder through the ſummer. Now the bogs are almoſt

almoſt all drained, and by the means of artificial graſſes, the farmers are become remarkable for their fine breed of cattle, which are generally ſold off at high prices, from 3 to 4 years old; and what are kept till they are full growth, are not to be excelled by any of the Fife breed. One farmer ſold his 3 year old black cattle laſt ſummer, for fattening, at L. 9, 12s. and the ſtock on hand this year is eſteemed to be much ſtronger and more valuable. There is a gentleman who reſides in the pariſh, who ſold laſt ſeaſon in Cupar fair, the 2 beſt oxen, both for weight and beauty, that were in it.

It is impoſſible to ſay what are the real rents of the pariſh, as they are paid part in victual, part in money; and hence riſe and fall with the price of grain. Beſides there are ſome 100 acres occupied by ſeveral of the proprietors themſelves, the rents of which cannot be aſcertained. The valued rent is L. 3944 : 9 : 2 Scots; and the lands let as high as any in the neighbourhood.

Population.—According to the return made to Dr Webſter, the population was then 565. The number of ſouls, when taken laſt ſummer, was, males 334; females 369; in all 703. The pariſh contains 162 houſes, 28 of which are occupied by widows and unmarried women. There are 12 heritors, 3 great ones, and 9 poſſeſſed of ſmall property. Two of the principal heritors have their conſtant reſidence in it, and likewiſe 3 of the leſſer ones. There are 50 weavers, 4 wrights, 2 blackſmiths, 2 maſons, 7 tailors, 9 ſhoemakers, 1 miller, and 2 boatmen; about 20 Seceders; the remainder are farmers and labourers. There has been no regular regiſter of burials for a great number of years. The regiſter of baptiſms and marriages for the 10 years preceding 1782, is as follows:

Baptiſms.

	Baptiſms.		Marriages.
	Males.	Females.	
1772,	9	1	1
1773,	4	4	7
1774,	11	6	6
1775,	11	6	2
1776,	7	7	3
1777,	7	7	7
1778,	7	4	5
1779,	14	6	7
1780,	8	9	5
1781,	10	10	5
	88	60	

Total Baptiſms, - 148 Ditto Marriages, - 44

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is 8 chalders of victual, and 200 merks Scots, (out of which the miniſter has to furniſh the communion-elements); a glebe of about 9 acres, with a manſe, garden, and office-houſes.—School-maſter's ſalary is 100 merks Scots; and the pariſh-dues, which may amount to L. 3 Sterling, with a houſe and garden.—There are no beggars; ſuch as are infirm by diſtreſs or old age, and unable to procure a maintenance, either by help of their friends, or by their own hands, are provided for out of a ſmall fund, from former ſavings, from the weekly collections, and from private beneficence*.

Advantages.—Theſe are, 1*ſt*, Its being ſituated on the banks of the Tay, where there is a ferry boat which paſſes twice

* Servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 8 Sterling. Day-labourers earn from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d.; maſons and wrights have generally, through the county, the ſame wages. Butcher meat and poultry, the ſame as the Dundee prices.

twice a-week to Dundee, and it is within two miles of Woodhaven, a public ferry, where boats conſtantly ply; thus cheeſe, butter, poultry, eggs, &c. are eaſily conveyed to a good market. By means of the Tay likewiſe, coal and lime are brought to Balmerino in ſuch quantities, as to ſerve all the purpoſes of fuel and agriculture. And what is of the greateſt importance, the harbour of Balmerino, a creek belonging to the cuſtom-houſe of Dundee, is the chief place on the ſouth ſide of the Tay for ſhipping wheat and barley for the Forth and Canal. The quay was at firſt deſigned for ſhipping lime from the Fife hills to Dundee; now there is not a boll that comes from thence, but, on the contrary, ſome thouſands from Charleſtown on the Forth, and from South Sunderland, are delivered annually to the pariſh and neighbourhood. This trade has been much on the increaſe of late. The trade of ſhipping wheat and barley at this port began about 30 years ago; at firſt, only ſome farm-bolls were ſhipped, and afterward the merchants began to buy from the farmers at the weekly market in Cupar, and received their grain at Balmerino. Before that period, the farmers carried their victual either to Dundee, where the merchants ſhipped the ſurplus, or tranſported it upon horſeback to the ſouth coaſt. The number of bolls ſhipped here laſt year muſt, from the neareſt calculation, have exceeded 7000. The harbour is but trifling, and may, no doubt, be improved; but, as the bottom is good, ſhips lie to and take in and deliver with eaſe. 2*d*, This being in the neighbourhood of Dundee, a great manufacturing town, the weavers find plenty of work, and the factory-work finds conſtant employment for all the women, who generally ſpin with both hands, and are at preſent receiving at the rate of 17 d. the ſpindle. 3*d*, There are eight ſalmon-fiſhings in the pariſh, upon the banks of the Tay. Theſe fiſhings are carried on by means

of

of yairs or scaffolds with poke-nets, and in summer with sweep and toot nets. The first are hauled when the fish strike the nets in their way up with the flowing tide. The second are payed off and drawn in at a certain time of the tide, without knowing whether there are salmon or not; and the last are set in the water, and never drawn till the watchman, or *tootsman*, as he is called here, observes the fish to have got within the net. These fishings are become very valuable of late, and bring in money to the country from our neighbours in England. There is likewise a spirling fishing carried on here through the winter, and as they catch great numbers of spirlings, garvies, herrings, flounders, &c. they are sold at low prices, and are easily come at by the poorest in the parish. The spirlings are taken with poke-nets tied between two poles, and anchored at the back end. The ebbing tide forces the fish into them, and they are shaken out at low water *. The fishers, who are extremely industrious, likewise catch seals, in the summer months, with long nets, for which, besides the value of the oil and skins, they draw a small premium from the salmon-dealers in Perth.

Antiquities.—The first thing that deserves our notice here, is the ruins of the Abbey of Balmerino. Some pillars of excellent workmanship, and most durable stone, every one ornamented in a different manner, and covered in by a beautiful arch, are still to be seen. There are also some semicircular vaults, one of which seems to have been a place of worship, as there is a row of stone-benches all round it, and nigh the entrance two basons cut out in the stone, probably for holding holy water, as the bust of the Virgin,

* The reason why I do not mention the fishers in my description of the people, is, that they are all either tradesmen or labourers, and follow their occupation when the fishing is over.

Virgin, with the Holy Child in her arms, ſtood in a niche above them. This buſt was dug out of the ruins ſome years ago, and given to Mr David Martin, painter and antiquarian. There are alſo the ruins of the church, and what appears to have been a ſmall chapel upon the end of a houſe, within the precincts of the Abbey, where Lord Balmerino ſometimes reſided. This Abbey was begun by Alexander II. and his mother Emergarda, daughter to the Earl of Baumont, and widow of William, firnamed the Lion, in the year 1229. This lady in the year 1215, purchaſed the lands of Balmurenach, Cultrach, and Balindean, from Richard de Rule, for 1000 merks Sterling, upon which ground they founded the monaſtry near the ſhore, about 8 Engliſh miles above where the Tay empties itſelf into the bay of St Andrew's. It is pleaſantly ſituated upon the banks of the Tay, noted for their romantic ſhelving and perpetual verdure, and commands a beautiful view of the river, with Dundee, and the rich vale of the Carſe of Gowry on the oppoſite ſhore. It has a ſmall running water to the eaſt of it, which turns a mill, and runs through a den or glen, well ſtocked with venerable trees, conſiſting of aſh, beech, elm, &c. In the old garden there is a cheſnut-tree, the bole of which meaſures 15 feet in the girth, and not above 5 feet to the ſetting out of the branches, two of which run horizontally the whole length of the chapel, formerly mentioned, ſtanding at the end of the houſe. A beech-tree was meaſured to 12 feet 7 inches in the girth; and an elm to 7 feet 9 inches, their height from 30 to 40 feet. It is well ſheltered from the north-eaſt wind by the Scurr hill, which riſes to a great height above the river, has Naughton on the eaſt, and Birkhill on the weſt, both of them modern houſes, with riſing pleaſure grounds of conſiderable extent. At this laſt place there is, beſides ſome extenſive plantations lately made, a conſiderable

able coppice wood, extending above a mile along the banks of the Tay, conſiſting moſtly of oak, and in which there are ſeveral groves of beech and oak, which may now be reckoned tolerable timber *.

* The abbey-church, wherein Queen Emergarda is ſaid to be buried, *ante magnum altère*, ſerved as the pariſh-church till the year 1595, when it was removed to the eaſt ſide of the Den; it ſtands upon a little eminence. The manſe was likewiſe in or near the abbey, till ſome time after the year 1618, when a houſe, built of that date by T. and J. Chrichton, whoſe names and arms are ſtill to be ſeen on ſtones that ſtood on the ſtorm-windows, was given in lieu of it. This abbey belonged to the Ciſtertian or Bernardine Monks, was dedicated to St Edward, and, as all the other houſes of this order were, to the Virgin Mary alſo. It ſeems to have been well endowed. David de Lindſay gave to it an annuity out of his mill in Kirkbuet, in the year 1233; Simon de Kinnear gave to it Little or Weſter Kinnear, in the 22d year of Alexander's reign; and Corbeck, ſignifying a den with birks, or Birk-hill, as it is now called, was given to it by Laurentius de Abernethy. The preceptory of Gadvan, in the pariſh of Dunbog, alſo belonged to it.—After the Reformation, King James VI. erected Balmerino into a temporal lordſhip, in favour of Sir James Elphinſton of Barnton, then Principal Secretary of State, on the 20th of April 1604.—There are alſo two places in the pariſh, one of them called the Battle-law to this day, where the Scots are ſuppoſed to have given battle to the Danes, after their retreat from Luncarty, where they again defeated, and forced them to fly with precipitation on board their ſhips, then lying in the mouth of the Tay. One of the places was dug up a few years ago, at the deſire of two gentlemen, where they found ſome ſtone coffins and arms, or pieces of broken ſwords; but no further diſcoveries have ſince been made.—The dates of the abbey, and the gifts made to it, are taken from Sibbald's Hiſtory of Fife, and Hope's Minor Practics.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF CLUNIE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM M'RITCHIE.

Situation and Extent *.

THE church of Clunie, near the centre of the parish, and of that district of Perthshire called the Stormont, stands nearly on the same parallel with Lord Privy-Seal's observatory on the lawn at Belmont castle, about 56° 35′ N. latitude, and nearly 2′ W. longitude from the meridian of Perth. Its distance from Dunkeld is about 6 miles E. by N. and its distance from Perth is about 15 miles N. by W. The parish is of an irregular figure, extending about 9 miles from N. W. where it rises, to the summit of the

* This account includes certain grounds, which properly belong to the parish of Caputh. As they lie at a distance from their own parish-church, the inhabitants of those places were, by the presbytery of Dunkeld, in 1728, recommended, *quoad sacra*, to the inspection of the then minister of Clunie. They contain about 80 inhabitants, and pay about L. 140 Sterling rent.

lower tire of the Grampian mountains, to S. E. where it ſtretches downwards into Strathmore to the neighbourhood of the Roman encampment at Meiklour. Its greateſt breadth is about 4 miles from N. E. to S. W.; and it is interſected towards the S. E. by a ſmall arm of the pariſh of Caputh.

Name and Language.—The Engliſh language has made conſiderable progreſs here among the better ſort of people, ſince the Union of the Scottiſh and Engliſh crowns; but the vulgar ſtill continue to ſpeak the Scotch, a dialect of of the Dano-Saxon, which was brought from the other ſide of the German Ocean, by the Daniſh invaders of the ninth and eleventh centuries. Some of the people who border on the Highlands, have a ſmattering of, and retain a predilection for the Gaelic or Celtic, which ſeems to have been the original language of the whole iſland. Of this language there are many traces here, particularly in the names of places; which names either mark the local ſituation, or refer to ſome tranſaction that has taken place there in diſtant times. For example, *Clunie*, which has time immemorial been the name of the pariſh, is the modern orthography of the old Celtic word *Cluaine*, which ſignifies, "plain green paſture between woods:" A plain, green paſture, called the Meadow, lies a little to the north of the church; on the north ſide of this plain, there is ſtill natural wood growing, and on the ſouth ſide of the plain, we find veſtiges of old trees in a ſmall moſs or mire, which makes a part of the glebe *.

Surface,

* *Stron*, ſituated at the entrance of the hill of Clunie, ſignifies the "noſe, promontory, or heel of the hill." *Dullatir*, (in Gaelic, *Duilea-tire*, the "black, bleak half ſide of the country,") lies in the heath, on a high, cold, northern expoſure, perfectly correſponding to its name.

Balvedock,

Surface, Soil, Climate, Diſeaſes.—The ſuperficial area of the pariſh has not been meaſured, nor has any particular map of it been yet attempted. It contains probably upwards of 8000 acres of mountain, moſs, heath, wood, water, arable and paſture. The arable parts, which have of late been conſiderably extended by induſtry, comprehended, in ſummer 1791, about 2555 acres. The ſurface of the ground is uneven, and not diſagreeably diverſified. The loweſt parts are perhaps not more than 150 feet, and the higheſt are perhaps not leſs than 1800 feet above the level of the ſea: Accordingly the ſoil and climate are various. The mountainous parts are cold, rocky and heathy, fit only for ſheep and goats; the latter of which are entirely baniſhed, and the former reduced, comparatively, to a very ſmall number. Contiguous to the mountains, are large tracts of black, bleak barren moors, where the heath is in ſome places interſperſed with bent, affording ſubſiſtence to about 200 ſmall Scotch cattle, and about 1000 ſmall Scotch ſheep. Theſe tracts are in general too rough and wild to admit of the plough; it appears, however, that ſome ſpots of them have been cultivated by the Caledonians of old, when the lower parts of the pariſh were covered with wood. Many of theſe barren heaths may, in future times, be crowned with beautiful plantations of the fir

Balvedock, (Gaelic, *Baile-feadoig*,) means, "the village of the grey "plover," which bird frequently haunts the adjoining moor. *Baldornock*, (Gaelic, *Baile-dornog*,) denotes, the "village of ſmall round ſtones, "ſuch as one can take up in one's fiſt;" and vaſt numbers of ſuch ſtones are on the ſurface of the ground of Baldornock, and its neighbourhood. *Tullaneidy*, (Gaelic, *Tullach-neid*): *Tullach*, ſignifies a "ſmall hill or "knock," near which Tullaneidy ſtands; *neid*, ſignifies a "battle" or "wound, received in a battle;" and an ingenious antiquary is juſt now making out a map of this part of the country, wherein he places Tullaneidy near the ſcene of the great action between Galgacus and Agricola. This circumſtance will be alluded to under the article of Antiquities.

fir kind, particularly the larix, which, if not planted in water, will thrive in almoſt any elevation or expoſure. In many parts, eſpecially about the middle of the pariſh, the ſoil is light, ſandy and ſtony; here, where it is not cultivated, it is covered either with ſhort heath, furze, broom or bruſh-wood; but, where it is properly improved, being naturally dry and warm, it yields early and good crops. In the vallies and lower declivities of the diſtrict, the ſoil is, for the moſt part, an excellent well pulverized mixture; producing, either with lime or marl, or even with a competency of common manure, as good barley, oats, peaſe, turnip and potatoes, as any part of this neighbourhood. The oat-ſeed time begins about the end of March, and the bear-ſeed is finiſhed about the 10th of June; harveſt commences about the 10th of September, and terminates about the 20th of October, in ordinary ſeaſons. In the hilly parts, both ſeed-time and harveſt are a fortnight later. The air is good, and the inhabitants are generally healthy, and live to a conſiderable age; ſeveral perſons exceed 80, ſome exceed 90, and a few have reached near 100 years. In winter, the hoarfroſt often ſits heavy on the lower grounds, where the degree of cold is then greater than on the tops of the mountains. The E. and N. E. winds of that ſeaſon frequently bring ſnow or rain, or miſt from the German ocean; and it is here obſerved, that theſe winds occaſion ſome dullneſs or depreſſion of the animal ſpirits; whereas, on the contrary, it is remarked, that the W. and N. W. winds, which blow hither through a pure, unclouded atmoſphere, and over a boundleſs extent of high, heathy mountains, ſeldom fail to bring along with them good health and good ſpirits. The truth of this laſt obſervation is ofttimes experienced by the ſtranger from the low country, who goes to the highlands for air and exerciſe, particularly in the ſummer months, w en the heath is in bloom. He reſpires with unuſual eaſe, his ſpirits riſe, and

he

he deſcends to the plain not without ſome reluctance. The W. and N. W. winds are peculiarly agreeable and advantageous here in autumn. In that chearful laborious ſeaſon, our anxious huſbandman throws a wiſhful look to the N. W. and pointing to ſome well known ſummit of the Grampian mountains, raiſes his heart and his hand to heaven, and prays that the wind may never ſhift from that particular quarter, till his own and his neighbour's fields are cleared. There are here no local diſeaſes. Colds and ſore throats are pretty frequent in winter. The ague is unknown, and the gout and rheumatiſm occur very rarely. The meaſles prove ſometimes deſtructive, and alſo the ſmall pox, taken in the natural way. Numbers have, of late years, been inoculated, and of theſe only one died. Happily for the looks as well as for the conſtitutions of the riſing generations, the practice of inoculation is becoming more general, the prejudices againſt it are every day giving way, and the more rational part of the people begin to feel a becoming gratitude to heaven for having been pleaſed to communicate to mankind ſuch an important diſcovery. When a fever comes here, it generally attacks numbers. This is owing in a great meaſure to the temerity of thoſe, who, from friendly intentions, viſit the patient; but who, without obſerving the proper caution, ruſh upon his breath, imbibe the contagion, and communicate it from houſe to houſe, and from village to village. This conduct is to be aſcribed partly to ignorance, and partly to religious prejudice, both of which are happily giving place to more ſenſible and enlightened views of things.

Mountains, Lakes, Brook, Fiſhes.—Ben-achally, towards the N. W. part of the pariſh, is the higheſt mountain. It ſtands on an elevated baſis, and commands a very extenſive proſpect. From the top of Ben-achally, in a clear day, you ſee

ſee on the S. W. the W. the N. W. the N. and N. E. the higher Grampians towards Argyleſhire, Badenach and Mar; on the E. the S. E. and S. you have a view of the whole extent of Strathmore, from the neighbourhood of Stonehive to that of Stirling, and this great Strath, bordered on the oppoſite ſide by the Sidla and Ochil hills; beyond the latter, you perceive the Pentlands, a little to the S. W. of Edinburgh; and, thence directing your eye eaſtward to the ſide of the Lomond hill at Falkland, you may deſcry pretty diſtinctly the eaſtern termination of the Soutra hills, in the neighbourhood of Haddington, riſing like ſmall blue clouds in the verge of the horizon. The height of Ben-achally has not been aſcertained, and the elevation of its baſe detracts much from its apparent altitude. Birnam, celebrated in the tragedy of Macbeth, ſtands about 5 miles S. by W. of Ben-achally, and the height of Birnam has been taken, 1580 feet above the level of the ſea. Suppoſing this meaſurement to be accurate, Ben-achally ſhould not be overſtated at 1800 feet above the ſame level, ſince, to the naked eye, it appears conſiderably higher than Birnam.

At the foot of Ben-achally, on its north ſide, in the foreſt of Clunie, (ſaid to have been once a royal foreſt, and now the property of the Duke of Atholl), lies the loch of Ben-achally, extending about a mile from W. to E. and about half a mile from N. to S. at its weſt end. Its greateſt depth 11—12 fathoms, is towards the foot of the mountain; and if we compute the height of the mountain as above, the ſurface of the loch may be ſuppoſed not leſs than 900 feet above the level of the ſea. In the loch are ſome eels; and it abounds with trouts, which in general are ſmall. We have ſeen ſome of them 1—2 lb. weight; ſometimes they are caught of a large ſize. In a calm ſummer evening, they ſpring in ſuch numbers to the flies, that the whole ſurface of the water appears to be dancing.

Here,

Here, as on the other Highland lochs in its neighbourhood, the beſt time of taking the trout, is a dark windy day, in June, July, or Auguſt, or, which is equally proper, any calm warm night in that ſeaſon; and for the night-fiſhing, you muſt uſe an artificial fly, of a white or very bright grey colour. There is here no angling of any conſequence, owing prinipally to the want of a boat. About 30 years ago, Mr Patrick Simpſon, then miniſter of Clunie, who was a very expert angler, as well as a very reſpectable clergyman, cauſed make and carry up hither, at his own expenſe, a ſmall fiſhing-boat, which, however, ſoon after his death, fell to pieces, having no ſhed to ſcreen it from the winter ſtorms. A mile to the weſtward of Loch-Ben-achally, and ſtill nearer the tops of the mountains, is Loch-nachat, a ſmall loch, full of fine trouts.

About 4 miles S. E. of Loch-Ben-achally, and on a level, perhaps 700 feet lower, lies the loch of Clunie, a beautiful piece of water, ſomewhat of the form of a blunted equilateral triangle, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference. Its ſurface is probably not more than 80 feet above the conflu-ence of the Tay and Ila, which laſt is only 93 feet above the level of the ſea. Its greateſt depth is about 84 feet, and lies on the N. ſide towards the higheſt bank. The ground riſes from the loch all around, with a bold ſlope, and is in a tolerable ſtate of cultivation. The W. and N. W. banks are pretty much decorated with verdure and plantation; and had the oppoſite banks a little more of the aid of ornament, which in all probability they will ſoon have, this loch would be one of the firſt natural beauties of the country. About 200 yards from its weſtern ſhore, there is a ſmall but pleaſant iſland, near the centre of which ſtands an old caſtle, in good repair, an occaſional ſummer reſidence of the Earl of Airly, who is ſuperior of the loch, proprietor of the barony of Clunie, and firſt heritor of the

pariſh. Around the verge of this iſland are old aſhes and planes, that have withſtood the ſtorms of ſome hundred years, yet ſtill continue to vegetate. Theſe trees have ſomething venerably groteſque in their appearance. The trunk of ſome of the planes ſeparates and unites again, (forming a large diſtinct aperture), as do alſo ſome of the larger branches. The trees, in ſome places, diverge conſiderably from the land, leaning acroſs the water, over which their aged arms embrace, and the roots of the planes are incorporated with thoſe of the aſhes, in ſuch a manner, as if they were determined to ſtand and fall together. In the ſultry heats of ſummer, theſe trees throw a cool refreſhing umbrage over the iſland, intercepting the rays of the ſun, which otherwiſe, being ſtrongly reflected from the water, would prove hurtful to the tender eye. The iſland itſelf is a plain carpet of green, interſperſed with a few flowering ſhrubs, where the fairies, in the times of ſuperſtition, were wont to hold their moonlight aſſemblies.

In the loch of Clunie there is plenty of pike, perch, trout, and eel. The eels are ſometimes caught here of a conſiderable ſize, but they are generally a troubleſome capture, as they are apt to knot and warp the line in an inextricable manner. In bright ſunny days, when they come out near the ſhore, and are diſtinctly ſeen at the bottom of the ſhallow water, they are ſometimes ſtruck with the eel-ſpear, which affords an agreeable amuſement. The trouts here grow from 4 lb. to 12 lb. weight, but are ſeldom taken except on the ſet line, or in the net. Vaſt numbers of the young fry, both of the trout and perch, are devoured by the pike. The perches here are numerous, but generally ſmall, and they are caught in the uſual manner with the rod. Their beſt bait is the common red worm, or a ſmall minnow, and they take very well here in June, July and Auguſt. The pike-fiſhing begins about the end of March,

and

and though the pikes are ſuppoſed to be in beſt ſeaſon in March, April and May, during which time they bite moſt greedily, yet they are in very good ſeaſon in autumn, and even in winter, provided they could be then taken with equal eaſe. Their beſt ſpring bait is a ſkinned frog, or rather a freſh burn trout about 6 or 7 inches long; and their common ſummer bait is a cutting of a ſkinned eel, or a ſkinned perch. Pikes have been killed in the loch of Clunie from 12 lb. to 24 lb. or even 30 lb. weight, but the ordinary ſize is from 2 lb. to 6 lb. They are commonly taken either with the ſet line, or by *trowling*, that is, with the rod and wheel, dragging a conſiderable length of line with a large artificial fly or baited hook at the farther end of it; and in order to *trowl* with ſucceſs, it is neceſſary that the ſurface of the water ſhould be curled by a gentle breeze, and that the boat ſhould be kept all the while in a pretty briſk motion, rather in oppoſition to the wind than otherwiſe *.

* Here are no rivers, but ſome conſiderable burns or brooks, the Lornty, the Droothy, the Buckny, and the Lunan. The Lornty flows from the Loch of Ben-achally, runs about 6 miles E. S. E. through the hilly parts of the pariſhes of Clunie, Kinloch, and Blairgowrie, and, having turned five mills in its courſe, falls into the river Eright, a little above the Caith, a curious fall of the river, a little above the village of Blairgowrie. The burn of Droothy riſes from the moſs of Ben-achally, ſeparates the barony of Laighwood from the foreſt of Clunie, and the barony of Forneth, and, after a rapid courſe of about 3 miles to the S. E empties itſelf into the Lunan. The Buckny takes its riſe from Loch-na-chat, and falling to the S. E. between the mountains of Ben-achally and Deuchara, forms the Doo-loch; thence, increaſed by the ſprings of the Doo-loch, it thunders down a deep, narrow, rocky den, covered with wild wood, (called the Den of Richip), and, ſeparating the pariſhes of Caputh and Clunie, it enters the latter in the park of Laighwood, where it unites with the Lunan. The Lunan itſelf is by far the moſt conſiderable ſtream in the pariſh. Collected from different ſources in the Grampians, a little to the north of Dunkeld, it proceeds eaſtward, and forms the lochs of Craigglaſh, of Lows, of Butterſtone, of Clunie, and of Drumelly. From this

Birds and Beaſts.—We have here moſt of the birds peculiar to the inland parts of the northern kingdom; a catalogue of which is unneceſſary. Birds of prey are frequent, ſuch as the ſparrow-hawk, the grey-hawk or hen-harrier, the kite, and the large buzzard: The eagle has been ſeen, though ſeldom, in the neighbourhood of Ben-achally. The ſinging birds are numerous; the linnet, the bullfinch, the blackbird, the ſtarling, and the thruſh, &c. The hollow moaning of the ſtock-dove gives a ſolemnity to the concert of the groves. The notes of the wood-lark are heard, delightful, along the banks of the Lunan in ſpring and autumn; its nocturnal ſong has a dying cadence peculiarly melodious, and has often been miſtaken for the ſong of Philomel. Of the migratory birds, we have, in their proper ſeaſons, the caprimulgus or goatſucker, the land-rail, the golden creſted wren,

laſt, it directs its courſe to the S. E. and, paſſing by the Roman encampment near Meiklour, it increaſes the river Ila, about half a mile N. E of the Prætorium, and nearly 2 miles N. E. of the junction of the Ila and the Tay. The courſe of the Lunan is about 12 miles long, and ſomewhat reſembling a bended bow; and, in this courſe, it forms the five beautiful ſheets of water above mentioned, paſſes under five ſtone bridges, turns one cloth-mill, 3 flax-mills, and 10 corn-mills; and divides the Stormont into two parts, nearly equal. The trouts of the Lunan are excellent, and, both in point of ſize, form, and flavour, much ſuperior to thoſe of the hill-brooks deſcribed above. This is owing to its waters being deeper, warmer, and better ſheltered; and to its paſſing over rich, clayey, and marly bottoms. It is difficult to angle upon the Lunan in many places, particularly above the loch of Clunie, on account of the natural wood overhanging the ſtream. At ſome of the falls of the Lunan, are placed arks or perforated cheſts, for the purpoſe of catching the eels. Theſe fiſh run down from loch to loch, in vaſt numbers, eſpecially with the weſterly wind, in the dark nights of October, and are taken by hundreds in theſe arks. The eels are beſt in that ſeaſon of the year, and their ſkins are then valuable to the farmer for making whangs or bindings to his flails. Some of the common people here, on ſpraining an ankle or a wriſt, apply to the wound the ſkin of an eel to which they aſcribe a peculiar virtue. In this pariſh, there is no fiſh caught for ſale.

wren, the lapwing, the ſwallow and martin, the ſtone-chatter, the cuckoo and tit-lark, the fieldfare and ſnow-flight, and ſometimes, as in November 1791, the Bohemian chatterer and butcher-bird. The ſandy-lark haunts our lochs in ſummer, and great number of ſea mews, pitarnies and gulls, come up in the ſpring. The aquatic fowls of the country abound here; we have the wild-duck, the widgeon, the ſmaller and larger teal, and the water-rail. The wild-geeſe reſt here, though rarely, on their paſſage; and likewiſe the wild ſwans, (perhaps 12 or 18 of them together), in their way to or from Loch Spynie near Elgin, their great place of rendezvous; a few of them generally remain on the Stormont lochs all the ſummer. The cormorant, here called the *ſcart*, frequents the iſland in the loch of Clunie, and ſometimes the oſprey, but neither has been known to build there. The herons uſed to hatch in numbers on the trees of the iſland, but not ſince the late reparation of the caſtle. Of the ſucker-birds, the ſnipe neſtles here, the woodcock comes in October, and departs in February or March; and the curlew viſits us in ſpring and autumn. We have plenty of the grey plover, and common grouſe in our moors, and the black-cock begins to make his appearance among our plantations. The partridge neſtles in almoſt every clover field, where, ſometimes the poor dam, while ſhe ſits on 18 or perhaps 24 eggs, has her head cut off by the ſcythe; a diſaſter the more to be regretted, as it cannot be prevented unleſs her neſt be diſcovered and marked before the hay-cutting begins. The pheaſant was common here ſome years ago, being introduced at Dunkeld by the Athole family. It became ſo tame, as frequently to join the domeſtic fowls in the barn-yard, and often there its tameneſs proved fatal to it. It was alſo a good mark, and an eaſy prey to the poacher, and in ſpring its eggs being depoſited rather careleſsly, were, before hatching, eaten

up

up by the grey-hawk or the ſquirrel, ſo that its whole race ſeems now to be exterminated from this pariſh and neighbourhood. The wild quadrupeds here are alſo numerous. We have the urchin or hedge-hog, the weazel, the pole-cat, the wild-cat, the badger, the fox, the rabbit, the hare, the otter, &c. The common brown ſquirrel begins to breed in the woods; it was alſo introduced at Dunkeld by the late Duke of Athole, and has unfortunately done much harm to the ſinging birds. A few roes haunt the park of Laighwood; and, in diſtreſſing winters, the red deer appear in the foreſt of Clunie, and in the higher parts of the diſtrict.

Plants.—Here the botaniſt will find but few of the rarer indigenous plants: If, however, pleaſure or curioſity ſhould lead him this way in July or Auguſt, he may take a morning ſail on the loch of Clunie; while he ſteers his barge ſlowly by "thoſe deep beds of whiſpering reeds," that in ſome places, grow ſo thick as to ſeem almoſt impervious, he will obſerve, among other water-plants, the lobelia-dortmanna, for which the Stormont lochs are remarkable. He will alſo find the bullruſh, the equiſotum fluviatile (water horſe-tail), the ſurpus, (ruſh-graſs), and a variety of the potamogiton, (pond-weed): But his eye will be charmed by the luxuriant appearance of the nymphæa lutea and alba, (white and yellow water lilly), blended together over the ſurface of the water, and arrayed in a ſplendor ſuperior to "Solomon's in all his glory *." Having paſſed the calm ſunny morning among theſe his aquatic companions, the admirer of vegetable nature may betake himſelf to the adjoining manſe, and there breakfaſt with an humble country clergyman on tea, bread and butter, and water-creſſes. After this,

* Mr Arthur Bruce, of the Natural Hiſtory Society, firſt obſerved here the Iſoctis Laceſtris, in ſummer 1792.

this, he and the parſon may walk forth together along the meadow of Clunie, till they come to the bank of the Lunan. Here, turning their faces weſtward, let them enter "the windings of the woody vale;" let them trace up the borders of the Lunan; let them examine the park of Laighwood, and aſcend the den of Richip *, and thus ſaunter away the heat of noon "among the lowly children of the ſhade." Leaving the woody den, let them hie to the heathy hill; let them climb the brow of Ben-achally, where they will find plenty of the arbutus uva-urſi, (bear-berry), and there alſo they may taſte the delicious juice of the vaccinium, vitis idæa, (the whortle berry, or Highland breigh-'lac). From Ben-achally, let them direct their wandering ſteps N. W. to Craigſheal, and dine on ſimple, hoſpitable fare in the moſt diſtant and moſt Celtic habitation of the pariſh. Thence let them bend their courſe to Lochnachat, and from that northwards along the ſummits of the hills, picking up here and there a plant of the rubus chamæmorus, (the averan or Highland oidh'rac); and, if its fruit be ripe, they will find it very refreſhing. Wheeling about to the right, at the north weſtern extremity of the diſtrict, let them deſcend through the foreſt along the Brannatire; where, if fatigued and thirſty, they may pauſe a moment, and regale themſelves with the fruit of the empetrum-nigrum, (crow-berry), that grows there in abundance. Proceeding S. E. along the hill, if they mark well, they may have the happineſs of finding a ſpecimen of the white-flowering heath, which they may clap into their botanical box, if by this time it can hold it. When they get down to the Craig of Forneth, provided they have not left the ſun and light of day behind them, they may there gather and

* In this den they will find the Convallaria Verticillata, a rare and beautiful plant.

and eat a few juniper-berries by way of a ſtomachic; and when they arrive at the parſonage of Clunie in the duſk, they will feel an appetite for ſupper, after which they may expect to enjoy very comfortable and refreſhing ſlumbers. In this day's excurſion, the pupil of Linnæus will have that general view of our Flora, which the time and ſpace preſcribed to this memoir will not allow its author to particularize.

The eriophorum vaginatum and eriophorum polyſtachium, (cotton-graſs), whitens our moſſes. The ſheep are ſaid to be very fond of it in the ſpring before it flowers, when it is believed to be very good for them: This is the "down of Cana," of Oſſian, and forms a beautiful ſimily in his juſtly-celebrated poems. It carries a large filamentous flower, whiter and ſofter than cotton, and its filament makes an admirable object for microſcopical obſervation. The menyanthes trifoliata, (marſh-trifoil), abounds on the ſkirts of our lochs and mires; early in the ſpring, it throws up a beautiful flower with five fringed petals: This plant is uſed in decoction and infuſion, and is reckoned a good antiſcorbutic. The athamanta meum, (ſpignel), here called moiken or muilcionn, grows in the higher parts of the barony of Laighwood, and in the foreſt of Clunie. The Highlanders chew the root of it like liquorice or tobacco. It is beſt in winter and ſpring, before its radical leaves appear. It flowers in June and July, and grows in great plenty in ſome of the glens to the northward of this, particularly in Glenſhee, Glenbeg, and Glencluny, by the ſides of the Mar-road. The root of this plant, when dried and maſticated, throws out ſtrong effluvia, which are thought a powerful antidote againſt contagious air, and it is recommended by ſome in goutiſh and gravelliſh complaints. The vaccinium myrtillus, (blae-berry), of which excellent jam may be made, and the fragaria, (wild ſtraw-berry), grow

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in ſeveral places here in great abundance, as alſo the trientalis Europæa, and the polygonum viviparum, &c.

Shrubs and Trees.—The juniperus communis was mentioned under the article of plants, a good deal of it grows here, and to the weſtward, on the baſe of the hills. Some times the poor people gather the fruit of it in conſiderable quantities, and carry it to Dundee, where they ſell it at about 1 s. the peck. When it is ripe, they ſpread a cloth under the branch, and beat down the berries with a ſtick. A little of this fruit taken in the morning before breakfaſt, is ſaid to be *as good as a dram;* probably it is much better, being an excellent ſtomachic. The ſmoke of the juniper is thought to be deſtructive to moths and bugs, none of the latter of which are ever found in this part of the country. Some of the common people here make an infuſion of the juniper-berry, which they uſe for tea; perhaps it might be, in many caſes, a good ſubſtitute for Bohea, and fully as conducive both to health and to ſtrength. Being in every form a powerful diuretic, it is highly proper to be uſed in every caſe where there are any indications of a calcareous diatheſis. The broom abounds here: It blooms in June; and at that time, the butter, made from the milk of the cows that feed upon its bloſſoms, partakes in a high degree of their beautiful tincture. The furze is alſo frequent, of which horſes are exceedingly fond in winter; and while they feed on it, it is obſerved, that they never catch cold. On the banks of the Lunan, there is a ſhrub, here called the hack berry, (prunus padus) that carries beautiful flowers, which are ſucceeded by a cluſter of fine blackberries; they are ſweet and luſcious to the taſte, but their particular qualities are not known. In the pariſh of Laighwood we meet with plenty of the black ſloe, which ripens here in October and November: The common people eat

it

it plentifully, (ſwallowing the ſtone along with the pulp,) eſteeming it a good pectoral, and uſeful in pulmonary and aſthmatic complaints. The park of Laighwood produces alſo the viburnum opulus, or water elder, the hawthorn, the hipthorn, the wild raſp, and the bramble in varieties. In ſome places the ſweet-brier is found. The park of Laighwood was famous for hazel-nuts, ſuperior in taſte, though not in ſize, to the Spaniſh nuts. There alſo we find the foreſt crab in varieties; in ſome places it bears pretty large and beautiful apples, nearly of the ſize of oſlins: Some of theſe plants appear to have ſprung from the ſeed of grafted apples, ſtolen from the garden or orchard by the wild birds. We have likewiſe the myrica *, (gale), and varieties of the ſalix or willow-tribe.—The larger indigenous trees of the diſtrict are the alder, along the wet grounds; the bark of it is uſeful in dying purple; and were this wood thinned in proper time, and permitted to grow to a proper ſize, it would make beautiful and durable flooring for rooms, being previouſly ſawed out to a due thickneſs, laid under moſs-water for about ſix weeks, and then dried in the ſhade. We have alſo the holly, ſo valuable in veneering; of the bark of which the beſt bird-lime is made: In the park of Laighwood it riſes in large copſes, owing to its branches ſpreading along the wet ground, and ſtriking root at the joints. Theſe copſes form agreeable objects in the winter ſnow, and are very carefully preſerved by the noble proprietor, the Duke of Athole. The birch is a native here, and alſo the narrow leaved ſervice, the aſh, the plane, and the oak, of which laſt the bark is ſo uſeful in the tanning of leather. The oak wood of this country is cut down once every 20 or 24 years, by the wood cutting companies, who purchaſe it, with

* Uſed in decoction by the Highlanders, as an antidote againſt worms.

with certain reſervations, from the proprietors, and ſend the bark to a great diſtance, to Dundee, Forfar, Brechin, &c. where the tanners receive it generally at the rate of 10 d. or 1 s. the ſtone weight. The wood-cutters do not draw ſuch profits from this buſineſs now, as they did formerly, owing partly to the proprietors of the oak becoming of late more ſenſible of its value, partly to different companies ſetting up in oppoſition to one another, and partly to ſome of the members of the ſame company not paying due attention to their particular departments; by which means the company at large ſometimes ſuſtains very material loſſes. It is therefore probable, that this trade will ſoon fall into the hands of the proprietors themſelves; and that the wood-cutters, who have generally farms, from which this buſineſs draws off their attention in the ſummer months, will find their account in abandoning it, and in betaking themſelves to the leſs precarious occupation of cultivating and improving their poſſeſſions *.

* The natural wood of this pariſh is much decayed. In many banks, and angles of fields, it has very properly given way to the plough. The cattle are generally permitted to browſe the infant ſhoots, and thereby to retard their growth. The ſtinted ſtems having, after a ſtruggle of ſeveral years, got above the reach of the cattle, are ſuffered to riſe in too great numbers on one ſtock; which greatly hurts the quality, as well as diminiſhes the quantity of the bark. The wood being ſo frequently cut, and the ſtocks laid bare, the riſe of the natural juices is thereby leſſened or prevented. Beſides, it may be ſuppoſed that, independent of the natural duration of the particular ſpecies of wood, according to the nature of the ſoil that bears it, the ground that produces trees, like the ground that ſucceſſively produces any other exhauſting crop, muſt, in a certain number of years, become waſted and fatigued, and conſequently muſt require a certain period of repoſe, before it be able to produce ſuch crops again. To ſome ſuch cauſes as theſe, it muſt be owing, that this country does not produce one half of the natural wood now, that it appears to have produced ſome hundred years ago.

Seats, Gardens and Plantations.—Of the firſt, there are three that merit deſcription. Forneth, the ſeat of Thomas Elder, Eſq; to whoſe beneficence and public ſpirit his friends and his country are much indebted, ſtands on the N. W. bank of the loch of Clunie, on a fine elevation, commanding a ſmall, but beautiful proſpect of the iſland, the loch, and the adjacent grounds. The Lunan, waſhing, in gentle meanders, the foot of the bank, ſteals ſoftly into the loch, a little below the houſe. The bank itſelf, covered with verdure, and interſperſed with trees, has an eaſy and elegant ſlope from the houſe to the ſurface of the water, which, expanding itſelf into a large tranſlucent plain, gives the inverted landſcape a mild and pictureſque appearance. A beautiful new garden, promiſing abundance of good fruit, lies warm and low at the foot of the bank, about 200 yards S. W. from the houſe. This garden is deſtined to receive within its boſom a ſmall ſtreamlet from the Lunan; which, after winding ſlowly along, and forming ponds in its courſe, is to have its outlet near the S. E. angle of the garden, where it will again unite with its parent ſtream. The houſe is new, elegant and commodious, ſheltered with trees, and well dreſſed fields, that ſwell above one another to a conſiderable height. Theſe fields have been all taken in from a rude ſtate of nature, by the preſent proprietor, and his father, who was the firſt man that began to clear rough grounds in the higher parts of this pariſh. Here, about 50 years ago, little elſe was to be ſeen but broom, furze, briers, thorns and ſtones.—Clunie caſtle, on the iſland of the loch of Clunie, was mentioned above, as being an occaſional ſummer reſidence of the Earl of Airly. It was built about the beginning of the 16th century, by George Brown, Biſhop of Dunkeld, and was one of his favourite ſeats or palaces. It ſeldom fails to attract the attention of the ſtranger, who generally

ſtops here to ſee it. The moſt remarkable circumſtances about it are, its inſular ſituation, the thickneſs of its wall, (about 9 feet at the ſurface of the ground), and its being reckoned the birth place of the * admirable Crichton. From the windows of the dining room, the ſpectator has a pleaſant view of the loch, with the houſe and grounds of Forneth, which are here ſeen to great advantage; and a wild romantic glen, ſtretching N. W. towards the Highlands, and terminating in a bold range of the Grampian mountains. Lord Airly ſometimes reſides here a few weeks during the fiſhing ſeaſon, and has a net here, which is never uſed but when the family are on the iſland. The neighbouring gentlemen are permitted the privilege of rod-fiſhing and pleaſure boats. On the weſtern ſhore of the loch, his Lordſhip has a good kitchen-garden and nurſery, together with an orchard, lately incloſed, and planted with a variety of fruit-trees, all in a proſperous condition.—On the other ſide of the hill, and about a mile and a half S. S. E. of Clunie caſtle, on a ſouthern declivity, and well ſheltered from every cold and ſtormy blaſt, is Gourdie, the ſeat of David Kinloch, Eſq; It is a large, convenient and ſubſtantial houſe, beautifully ſituated; the proſpect it enjoys is delightful. Immediately under your eye you ſee the level, rich, and well cultivated eſtate of Delvin, with the magnificent houſe of that name, riſing on a woody bank about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the S. From the foot of the bank of Delvin, you behold the river Tay winding eaſtward in ſtately meanders towards Meiklour, and there receiving the Ila at the old caſtle of Kinclaven. In the middle ſcene you have a diſtinct view of the broadeſt part of Strathmore, from Birnam on your right-hand to Dunſinnan on your left; and

* This will be more particularly taken notice of under the article of Eminent men.

and in the back ground you perceive the green ſummits of the Ochills, ſtretching weſtward from the neighbourhood of Perth, to where they decline at the ſcene of the battle of Sheriffmuir near Dunblane. Mr Kinloch, too, has done much in the way of improvement; his grounds are well laid out; his lawn has a rich appearance, and feeds excellent mutton; his garden, at the foot of the lawn, is one of the warmeſt and earlieſt in the county; and the amphitheatre of wood, that embraces the houſe and the lawn, is highly diverſified, and produces a very agreeable effect. Theſe gentlemen have contributed much to the melioration and embelliſhment of this pariſh. Many of its eminencies, fit for nothing elſe, are already planted with trees adapted to the ſoil; and theſe plantations, projected from the Grampians on the border of the Great Strath, will, in a few years hence, become grand and conſpicuous objects. For the plantation on the top of the hill of Gourdy, we are indebted to the late Mr Mackenzie of Delvin, who was, without exception, the firſt improver of this country. Lord Airly has lately extended a broad belt of black firs, mixed with the birch and the larix, along the whole ſummit of the Craig of Clunie. Not many years ago, Mr Elder of Forneth incloſed and planted nearly 100 acres of the forehill; and this plantation, though one of the moſt elevated in the county, is thriving very well. From the vicinity of Perth, 16 miles to the ſouthward, it appears a large, dark-green ſquare, affording, in the winter ſnow, an agreeable relief to the eye even at that diſtance. Mr Elder intends to continue it along the whole extent of the hill weſtward, till it join the Duke of Athole's march, at the barony of Laighwood. This large wood, lined longitudinally along its ſummit with larixes, and croſſed here and there with ſtrips of the ſame, ſo as to ſhelter the common

mon firs, &c. from the inclemencies of the N. and E. would exhibit, in a very ſhort time, one of the moſt ſtriking objects on the whoſe baſis of the Grampian mountains. Such improvements as theſe, for which this pariſh (and many other ſuch places in Scotland) affords abundance of room, are at once a proof of the good taſte and liberal ſpirit of the landholders. While they beautify the country, and add warmth to the climate, they promiſe to contribute greatly to the comfort and conveniency of the inhabitants, by the fuel they will furniſh when the peat moſſes are exhauſted, as well as by the wood they will ſupply for building and repairing their houſes. At the ſame time, that many of our bleak and barren moors might eaſily be covered with pines, &c. attention might be paid to many little ſteep banks on the lower grounds by the ſide of brooks and rivulets, where neither the plough nor the cattle can reach, but where the ſoil is rich, and warm, and deep: Theſe ſpots might be all planted with the beech, the elm, the plane, the aſh, &c. which are ſo uſeful and neceſſary to the country in general, and to the huſbandman in particular.

State of Huſbandry.—It is only of late years that the knowledge of agriculture, and the ſpirit of improvement, began to diſplay themſelves in this pariſh. The people in general having no proſpect of emolument to rouſe their attention, and no example of induſtry ſet them by their ſuperiors, ſquandered away their time, either in doing nothing at all, or in doing nothing to the purpoſe. Their grounds ſcratched over once a-year, without receiving half the neceſſary manure, and perpetually croſſed with oats and barley alternately, were reduced to a *caput mortuum.* The lands were no where ſubdivided nor incloſed. The farmer, if he may be called ſo, had his crooked ridges eve-

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ry where warped through the crooked ridges of his neighbour; and the country being open in winter as well as in ſummer, all things were common, and men and beaſts were at liberty to prey upon one another. Happily for the place, the pleaſure, and the advantage of the people, the ſcene has now aſſumed another and a better appearance. Commonties and runrigs are done away; the farms begin to be reduced to ſome form, and the marches to be ſtreighted. Each man begins to know his own, and to have it in his power to improve it. Wet grounds are drained; rough grounds are cleared; ſtone-fences are built, and hedges are planted. Marl is brought from the neighbouring pariſhes of Kinloch and Caputh; lime from the ſhore of Perth; rich clays are applied to ſand, and a good permanent ſoil formed, where there was no ſoil before; green crops begin to be raiſed, and a regular rotation of crops begins in ſome places to be underſtood. Many new implements of huſbandry, common in the low country, are now introduced here; many old prejudices, that had long retarded the progreſs of improvement, are laid aſide; and here, as in other places, the farmer begins to find his account, in following the good example of thoſe who are wiſer and more experienced than himſelf.—In the courſe of the laſt 40 years, (during which time there has been a conſiderable revolution of the property), the rents are in moſt places doubled, and in ſome places tripled, and, which was not the caſe before, regularly paid on a certain day. The farmers are more independent of their landlords on that account; and though in every reſpect the expenſe of living has more than kept pace with the riſe of the rents, it is a fact, that both themſelves and their families are better lodged, better dreſſed, and better fed than ever. Theſe remarks are applicable to the tenants in general, and they are particularly applicable to a few, leading, active, and ſenſible men, who are happily diſtributed in different departments of the diſtrict, and who

who have both the inclination and the power to ſet an example of judicious induſtry to their more indolent and leſs intelligent neighbours. Such men as theſe are of great conſequence, eſpecially in a corner of the country, where the farming, notwithſtanding what has been ſaid in its behalf, is ſtill to be conſidered as only in a ſtate of infancy. They have a claim to protection and encouragement from their landlords in particular, with whom they co-operate in every liberal plan of improvement, and they acquire a title to the gratitude of the community at large, by making corn and graſs grow, where neither graſs nor corn ever grew before. The valued rent of the pariſh is about L. 4000 Scots money. The real rent is not ſo eaſily aſcertained, as a good deal of it is paid in victual, &c. Computing the victual, however, at about 15s. the boll, which is nearly the medium price here for the laſt 7 years, the whole rent of the pariſh amounts to upwards of L. 2000 Sterling. We obſerved, that in the year 1791, the arable part of the diſtrict comprehended 2555 acres, which were then cropped as follows:

	Acres.
In oats and barley, each nearly in an equal quantity, - - -	1554
In peaſe, potatoes, and turnip, -	205
In flax, - -	44
In artificial graſſes, - -	375
In inland paſture, - - -	377
	2555

The farms in general are ſmall: None of them rent above 100 Sterling, and the greater part of them are under L. 50. Each plough, at an average, turns annually about

27 acres; and the rent of the infield acre varies according to the quality of the ſoil, &c. from 10 s. to 20 s. The pariſh, beſides ſupplying * itſelf, exports a quantity of victual to Dunkeld and the Highlands. The ſtaple grain is oats and barley, (about a boll of ſeed to the acre), each of which yields, at a medium, 4—5 returns. More green crops would be raiſed were there more incloſures, of which laſt, the great advantage is every day felt and acknowledged. The turnips are but lately introduced here, and none of them are ſown in the broad-caſt. The farmers are not yet ſufficiently apprized of the great propriety of thinning them out in due ſeaſon to proper diſtances in the drills, by which neglect they are prevented from ſwelling to their proper ſize. Potatoes are becoming a favourite crop, and they afford food to the people during a great part of the winter. In a few places yams † begin to be raiſed, of which both the horſes and cows are remarkably fond. The cows, when fed with yams, give better milk than when they are fed on clover or turnips, and the yam-milk has no foreign taſte. Summer-fallowing is little practiſed, and, by conſequence, the ground is in many places foul. The couch-graſs extracts the ſubſtance from the manure, and chokes the crop. Were more of the grounds incloſed, that rotation of crops, which now begins to be known and approved of, would become more general; and till this be the caſe, farming cannot be carried to any high degree of perfection. The following rotation, which is well known in England, and in many parts of the lowlands, has been lately tried here, on a ſmall ſcale, with very conſiderable ſucceſs. The farm,

* Here we do not include the conſumpt of four ſmall ſtills, of 30 gallons each.

† The Surinam potato is here called by that name.

farm is incloſed and divided into 4 parts, nearly equal; and the hiſtory of 1-4th explains the hiſtory of the whole. Firſt year, ſummer fallow, if the ground be foul; or, if clean, peaſe, potatoes, and turnip. Second year, all the dung of the farm, with barley and graſs-ſeeds. Third year, graſs. Fourth year, oats. Then recommence. By adhering to this plan, the oats have already yielded the 12th, and the barley the 16th return; and as no two white crops immediately ſucceed one another, the ground can never be exhauſted.—In the higher parts of the pariſh, the old Scots plough is ſtill uſed, with 4 horſes a-breaſt, and the driver going backwards between the 2 middle horſes. In the lower and ſmoother grounds, the low-country plough, with the caſt-iron mould board, is becoming faſhionable, drawn by 2 horſes without a driver. About 30 years ago, it was not uncommon here to ſee 8 or 10 oxen, and 2 horſes, all yoked to one plough; but there is at preſent no cattle-plough in the pariſh. The horſes are of a middle ſize; and the ſingle horſe carts are found by experience to be preferable to the double ones. The cattle, excepting a few of a larger ſize that are fed in gentlemens incloſures, are the ſmall black Scots cattle, weighing from 16 to 24 ſtone. A good many of theſe are ſold every year from the pariſh; but neither the cattle nor ſheep trade are carried on to any extent. There are in the pariſh about 1018 ſheep, and of theſe a few are of the Cheviot breed. The number of the cattle amounts nearly to 1200; but ſome of the ſmaller farms appear to be rather overſtocked. There are in all about 337 horſes; and attention begins to be paid to the improving of the breed of both the ſheep, horſes and cattle. The number of ploughs is 79, of which the greater part are the old Scotch ploughs, and the num-

ber of the carts is 243, chiefly 1 horse carts, the wheel from 48 to 52 inches diameter *.

Population.—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the number of souls was then 905.—From the late extension of agriculture, and from the number of new houses, which are more than an overbalance to the number of old ones thrown down, the inhabitants have been for some time past increasing. The following enumeration was made with exactness, and holds good for November 1791.

Total inhabitants,	1037	Average births for the	
Males, - -	503	last 7 years, -	28
Females, - -	534	Ditto, deaths for ditto,	18
Under 6 years, -	162	Ditto, marriages for do.	10
From 6 to 30, -	502		
——30—60, -	297	Families, -	144
——60—70, -	52	Average persons to	
——70—80, -	18	each family, -	6—7
——80—90, -	5	Average children to	
——90—100, -	1	ditto, - -	4—5

Subtenants,

* The wages of a mason a-day is 1 s. 10 d.; of a carpenter, 1 s. 6 d.; of a day-labourer, from 10 d. to 1 s.; of a reaper, in harvest, 1 s.; of a tailor, 8 d The following table exhibits a comparitive view of the expence of living here in the years 1740 and 1791.

	1740.	1791.
The annual wages of a male-servant,	L. 1 10 0	L. 7 10 0—L 10 0 0
of a female-servant,	0 12 0	3 0 0— 3 10 0
Price of a farm-horse, - -	4 0 0	18 0 0
of a fat Highland cow, -	1 10 0	4 10 0
of a good sheep, - -	0 2 6	0 12 6
of a good hen, - -	0 0 2½	0 0 10
a dozen of eggs, -	0 0 1	0 0 3
a cart or coup, -	0 14 0	4 10 0
a plough, - -	0 4 6	2 2 0

Other articles of living, and implements of husbandry, are nearly in the same proportion as stated in the preceding table, and most of them rising

Subtenants, including their families,	254	Slater,	1
Men ſervants,	95	Butcher,	1
Maid ſervants,	59	Millers,	5
Wrights, incl. apprent.	21	Gardeners,	3
Maſons, do.	11	Day-labourers,	6
Weavers, do.	37	Diſtillers of whiſky,	4
Shoemakers, do.	9	Exciſe-officer,	1
Tailors, do.	4	Small inn-keepers,	2
Smiths, do.	4	Small ſhop-keepers,	2
Flaxdreſſers,	4	Clergyman,	1
Tanner,	1	Schoolmaſter,	1
Dyer,	1	Reſiding heritors,	3
		Non-reſiding heritors,	10

The inhabitants, excepting one born in England, are all natives of Scotland, and moſtly of the pariſh. With regard to their religious perſuaſions, they are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 2 old Scotch Epiſcopalians, and 4 of the Church of England. There are a few Seceders, principally women, who are natives of other pariſhes, and who endeavour to train up their children, particularly their daughters, in the principles of their own perſuaſion; theſe Seceders, old and young, may be reckoned about 20 *.

Character of the People.—The generality of the pariſhioners are diſpoſed to honeſt induſtry and good neighbourhood. They

* Numbers of the people reſide in paltry villages, containing each from 20 to 50 inhabitants. Mr Elder has begun, in the neighbourhood of his houſe, a new village, on a decent plan. A few of the houſes are finiſhed, and ſome tradeſmen are already eſtabliſhed there. To each of the families will be allotted ſome portion of the adjoining ground, for the purpoſe of raiſing greens, potatoes, &c. By which means the wild bank, where the village is ſituated, may be ſoon brought into a ſtate of high cultivation; and the village itſelf may, in a ſhort time, become a place of ſome conſequence. At any rate, ſuch attempts to improve the country, are highly commendable.

They are obliging and hoſpitable, chearful, contented, and charitable. There is no diſſenting meeting-houſe in the pariſh. Excepting a very few, who ſeem to be toſſed about with every wind of doctrine, the people are united and ſettled in their religious opinions. They ſeem to have leſs of the form than of the power of godlineſs, and to entertain pretty liberal and enlightened ideas with reſpect to both natural and revealed religion. Seldom are any of them guilty of enormous outrages againſt the rules of morality. Murder and ſuicide are unknown among them. None of them, natives of this pariſh, has been hanged or baniſhed theſe 60 years; and no perſon was ever known to periſh here for want of bread. Few of the young men join the army or the navy. The martial ſpirit of their forefathers has ſubſided, and the target and the broad ſword have given place to the ploughſhare and the ſickle. They are of a middle ſtature, and tolerably handſome figure. Whether it be owing to thoſe more laborious exertions to which they are accuſtomed in their younger days, or to ſome other cauſe, their ſize is ſaid to be comparatively diminiſhed, and their bodily ſtrength impaired. We have this on the authority of old perſons ſtill alive; but ſuch perſons are apt to be partial to the times that are paſt; and allowing age all the credit and reſpect to which it is entitled, we can no more believe that our worthy great-grandfathers were all giants, than that their degenerate poſterity are all pigmies.—Both the men and the women have of late years improved greatly in dreſs and cleanlineſs. In their manners and cuſtoms, which on the whole are neither rude nor refined, they reſemble their neighbours, the lowlanders on the one hand, and he highlanders on the other; and, like the latter, they are generally fond of the agreeable and innocent diverſions of muſic and dancing. Their convivial entertainments, terminate ſometimes, though rarely, in intoxication

tion and uproar; but, except 2 or 3 individuals, who have unfortunately abuſed themſelves with the ſpirit of whiſky, they may be regarded as a temperate and ſober people. They are not, as formerly, the dupes of ſuperſtitious credulity. Many old uſeleſs rites and ceremonies are laid aſide. Little attention is paid to bug-bear tales: Superſtitions, charms, and incantations, have loſt their power. Cats, hares, magpies, and old women, ceaſe to aſſume any other appearance than what nature has given them; and ghoſts, gobblins, witches, and fairies have relinquiſhed the land.

Church, Manſe, Stipend.—It would be a credit to this country, if all the old crazy kirks and manſes in it were razed to the foundation, and new ones built in a workmanlike manner, on a decent and convenient plan, and of the moſt ſubſtantial and permanent materials. This would occaſion ſome expenſe to the preſent proprietors of the country, who in general are opulent and liberal; but what it would take out of their pockets, it would put into thoſe of their poſterity and ſucceſſors to the 13th and 14th generation. The kirk of Clunie, though one of the beſt in the neighbourhood, has neither comelineſs nor proportion. It appears to have been built about the time of the Reformation, has been ſince repeatedly patched, and was laſt repaired in 1788. The manſe, like the church, is a bungled piece of architecture. It was built in 1732, and was alſo repaired in 1788. The ſtipend, including 50 merks for communion-elements, conſiſts of 3 chalders of victual, and L. 38, 17s. Sterling. The glebe, comprehending the area of the manſe, garden, and offices, contains about 6 acres of ground, which the preſent incumbent has incloſed with ditch and hedge. The Duke of Atholl and the Earl of Airly are vice-patrons.

School,

School, Poor.—The parochial ſchool-houſe was renewed in 1788, upon a large and liberal plan, at an expenſe of nearly L. 100 Sterling, built of good ſtone and lime, covered with blue ſlate, and finiſhed with the beſt Memel wood. A fountain of good water riſes hard by, contributing much to the health of the ſcholars, who have alſo a piece of ground allotted them for air and exerciſe. About 60 in winter, and 30 in ſummer, are here inſtructed in the principles of reading Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic, at the low rate of 6 d. the month at an average. Some time ago it was the practice of the better ſort of farmers here, to ſend their ſons to the ſchool a few years to learn Latin; but very little Latin is now taught in this part of the country; and ſuch as deſtine their ſons for the learned profeſſions, generally ſend them to towns and grammar-ſchools. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8 : 17 : 9 Sterling, his ſchool-fees amount to about L. 7, he receives L. 1 for officiating as ſeſſion-clerk, and about L. 1 more for proclamations, &c. ſo that his yearly income may be reckoned nearly L. 18 Sterling.—The poor here are all ſupported in their own houſes, and give no trouble to the country. The number now on the poors liſt is from 8 to 10 old or infirm objects, to whom money is diſtributed monthly, in proportion to their exigencies. This money ariſes from the uſe of the mort-cloth, from the occaſional donations of ſome of the more wealthy and generous of the pariſhioners, from the intereſt of a principal of L. 70 Sterling, but chiefly from the Sunday's collections at the church door, which amount to about L. 5 each at an average. The management of the poors money is in the hands of the kirk-ſeſſion. Each elder has the inſpection of the poor in his own department, and, being intimately acquainted with their ſituation and circumſtances, cannot be ſuppoſed liable to any miſapplication of the public charity. This pariſh not only ſupports

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its own poor in a decent manner, but alſo diſpenſes much to indigent people from the Highlands; and eſpecially to a number of importunate vagrants from Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glaſgow, &c. who crowd hither at all ſeaſons when the weather permits them to travel. There is reaſon to ſuſpect, that many of thoſe laſt mentioned are not real objects of charity, but idle, profligate impoſtors, that ought to be confined within the walls of a bridewell. This grievance calls for redreſs, as no perſon ſhould beg, or be permitted to beg, while Providence bleſſes him with the uſe of his reaſon and of his limbs.

Mineral Springs, Minerals and Foſſils.—There is one mineral ſpring near the Milton of Clunie, the waters of which are ſometimes uſed by the people of the neighbourhood as an antiſcorbutic. There is another, of ſtronger powers, on the foreſt, on the ſouth bank of the burn of Lornty, a little to the eaſtward of Bogmill. Its taſte reſembles that of the well at the South Inch of Perth, and its qualities are ſomewhat ſimilar to thoſe of the waters of Pitcaithly; but as neither of theſe ſprings has yet undergone any chymical analyſis, their peculiar medicinal virtues are not fully aſcertained.

The internal mineral ſtrata have not been much inveſtigated. On the ſurface of the ground there are maſſes of the quartz, the whinſtone, the moor-ſtone or grey granite, the red ſilex with which the Caledonians pointed their arrows, and the terra ponderoſa. In the grounds of Gourdie, there is a ſpecies of hard red grit, quarried in different places for the uſe of the proprietors. The houſes of Gourdie and Delvin are built of it. It is of a very durable quality, being proof againſt the acid of the air, and the influence of fire. There is good limeſtone on the hill of Gourdie; but being of a very hard nature, it is difficult to be burned.

In

In one place, on the north ſide of the hill, it appears to have been dug out formerly, in conſiderable quantities, when there was plenty of wood in the neighbourhood; but at preſent, in conſequence of the want of proper fuel, particularly coal, it cannot be turned to any material account. A large vein of fine blue ſlate extends from S. W. to N. E. along the foot of the Grampians, interſecting the pariſhes of Aughtergavin, Little Dunkeld, Caputh, and Clunie, in which laſt pariſh it ſeems to terminate. It is wrought here to ſome account, and ſold at 18 s. to 20 s. the thouſand. The Clunie ſlate does not ſplit ſo ſmoothly as that of Eſdale and Laroch, but is thought little inferior in point of colour and durability. In ſome places on the bank of the burn of Droothy, its laminæ are found interſperſed with ſmall maſſes of the pyrites. The ſlate quarries here, though opened four ſcore years ago, have not been carried on with much ſpirit or dexterity, and have contributed but little to the emolument either of the proprietor or of the tackſman. The vein in ſome places is merely ſcratched; and where it has been ſtruck deeper, the falling in of a little rubbiſh has ſometimes put a ſtop to the operations of half a ſeaſon. It may be here remarked, that the ſtrata of the ſchiſtus ſeem in general to run parallel to Strathmore and the Grampians; that is, from S. W. to N. E. and to incline towards the Strath, *i. e.* towards S. E. in angles of 50 to 80 degrees*.

Curioſities

* In the hilly parts, there is plenty of good peat; though, in ſome of the moſſes, the uppermoſt ſtratum is rather ſoft and ſpongy. Peat is alſo found in ſome of the lower parts of the diſtrict; but here it is often impregnated with ſulphur or bitumen, and, when burned, throws out effluvia diſagreeable to thoſe who have been accuſtomed to other fuel. In moſt of our moſſes, there are veſtiges of oak, birch, and hazel. Foſſil horns are ſometimes found at a great depth in the moſs. The head of the Urus has been dug up in this neighbourhood, as alſo the palmated horns of the elk, together with the horns and ſkeletons of large deer, ſuppoſed to

Curioſities and Antiquities.—Among the firſt, may be ranked a deep peat moſs, of an excellent quality, on the very ſummit of Ben-achally, but ſuch phænomena are common in the Highlands: In the face of that mountain, which looks towards the eaſt, there is a cave of conſiderable magnitude, appearing at ſome diſtance like a giant dreſſed in ſhort black cloaths: This cave is called the *Drap*, or Drop, from the water oozing through the crannies, and perpetually dropping from the roof of the cave. Below the Drop, and near the foot of the mountain, is a cove, called Henry's hole, from its having been in former times the hiding-place of ſome robbers or plunderers of that name. There is, in the high grounds of the park of Laighwood, another cove that has obtained the name of the *Tod's-chair*, (Fox's-chair), from its frequently affording a ſafe aſylum to reinard: Here large fragments have been ſevered from the impending rock, probably by a thunder-bolt, and ſtill ſhow, by their correſponding angles, the places from which they have been detached. One of theſe fragments forms a ſort of table at the entrance of the cave, and a ſeat, where the ſpectator enjoys a wild and romantic view of the neighbourhood. The old wall or dike of the park of Laighwood may, not improperly, be claſſed among the antiquities of this pariſh. It was built upwards of 4 centuries ago, of dry ſtone; is in ſome places 6 or 7 feet high, and 4 feet broad a-top, and notwithſtanding it great age, does not appear to have un-

to be the mooſe-deer. Some of theſe horns, which are of an amazing ſize, are in the cuſtody of the Duke of Athole, and of Mr Farquharſon of Invercauld.—We have mortar of a very ſtrong adheſive nature, forming an excellent cement; and rich clay, which, when applied to a light ſandy ſoil, has proved an excellent manure. Pipe-clay is found in the loch of Clunie, and likewiſe ſome marl, which it would be impracticable to drag, on account of the depth of the water. Marl, more acceſſible, may probably be diſcovered in ſome other parts of the pariſh, when they ſhall have been properly inveſtigated.

dergone any material reparation. It incloſes an area of about a ſquare mile, which, with the barony of Laighwood, is ſaid to have been given by Robert II. to the then Earl of Athole, for quelling an inſurrection of Donald of the Iſles. This park has ever ſince continued the property of the Athole family; and, previous to the building of Dunkeld-houſe, it was deſigned to be one of the places of their reſidence; ſome materials for that purpoſe were brought here, and depoſited, in a fine ſituation near the centre of the park, at a place called Stanley-know, in honour of the Derby family. A little to the north of Stanley-know, there is a riſing ground ſtyled the Gallow-drum, and about 300 yards S. W. of the miniſter's glebe is another eminence, named the Gibbet-know, both which were places of execution in the times of the baronial juriſdiction. On the eaſt ſide of the moſs at the foot of Ben-achally, we find a ſepulchral cairn, which has never been opened; and a few furlongs to the ſouthward of this cairn, there is a great number of ſmall cairns, which the people here call the *Pechs cairns*, i. e. the Picts cairns; but whether theſe cairns mark the ſcene of a battle between the Caledonians and the Picts, or whether they are veſtiges of the huts of the old inhabitants; or whether they have been collected merely for the purpoſe of clearing the adjacent grounds in paſtoral times, it is uncertain. There are two immenſe collections of ſtones, one on the S. W. and the other on the N. E. extremity of the pariſh. Theſe are ſaid to have marked the boundary here between the Caledonian and Pictiſh kingdoms; it is not unlikely, however, that they have been formed to commemorate the death of ſome illuſtrious chieftains or heroes. At the eaſt end of the hill of Gourdie, in the middle of a cultivated field, may be ſeen a curious piece of antiquity, called the *Steeds-ſtalls*. It conſiſts of 8 mounds, with 8 correſponding trenches; perhaps ſome more

have

have been obliterated by the plough. The mounds and trenches are of equal length, alternate and parallel. At the ſouth end of each trench or foſſe, there is a circular concave, the centre of which lies in the line of the foſſe, and to this circular concavity the foſſe ſeems to have formed the entrance. It is ſaid, that an advanced guard of the Caledonian army was poſted here, to watch the motions of the Romans, when they lay encamped at Inchtuthill, about 2 miles to the ſouthward in the plain below. The place of the Steeds-ſtalls ſeems to be well calculated for ſuch a purpoſe. It lies on the north ſide of the ſummit of a riſing ground that ſeparates the Highlands from the Low Country, and it looks directly northwards on thoſe declivities of the hills, which the Caledonians are ſuppoſed to have then occupied. By ſtepping a few yards forward to the ſummit of the ground, that covered the redoubt, the Caledonian guard could diſtinctly mark the enemy, without the poſſibility of being perceived; and the intelligence could be conveyed in a few minutes to their friends on the north ſide of the Lunan. The Steeds-ſtalls is about 2 miles north of the Roman camp at Inchtuthill*, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles W. N. W. of that at Meiklour*, about 7 miles W. N. W. of that at Cupar Angus *, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles ſouth of the Heer-cairns †, or the cairns of the battle.

3 There

* Mr Playfair, miniſter of Bendochy, the ingenious antiquary above mentioned, who has been at great pains to inveſtigate the antiquities of the Stormont, is of opinion, that when Agricola fought the great battle with Galgacus, the Roman legions were probably ſtationed at Meiklour.

† The old Saxon word *heer*, ſignifies *army*. Theſe cairns lie near the N. E. boundary of this pariſh, but within the limits of the pariſh of Kinloch; and conſequently the particular deſcription of them belongs to the hiſtory of that pariſh. They have long attracted the attention of the antiquary. Oral tradition affirms them to be the ſpot where a great battle was fought in old times; and their appearance indicates them to be the

ſcene

There are different veſtiges of chapels and cemeteries in this pariſh: One at Gourdie, (called the chapel of the Holy Ghoſt); another at Chapelton; another at the Chapel-hill, a little to the north of the preſent church; a 4th in the

ſcene of ſome very remote and important tranſaction.—However natural it may be for every Caledonian to wiſh to know the ſcene of the deciſive engagement between Galgacus and Agricola, it is highly probable that that ſcene will never be preciſely aſcertained. Our only information on that ſubject, is derived from Tacitus, who, though he gives us a moſt animated deſcription of the engagement itſelf, leaves us very much in the dark as to the ſcene of it. From him we learn only, that it muſt be ſomewhere at the foot of the *Mons Grampius*; but every one knows that the Grampian Mountains traverſe the whole extent of Scotland, from the vicinity of Aberdeen to the diſtrict of Cowal in Argyleſhire. In this extenſive range, there have been four different places, and theſe conſiderably diſtant from one another, ſuppoſed to be each of them the field of this battle.—The *firſt* of theſe is at *Fortingale*, at the foot of Glenlyon, in the very centre of the Grampians, where the veſtiges of a camp, apparently Roman, are ſtill viſible. But it is not likely that ſuch an experienced General as Agricola would have ventured to draw off his legions ſo far from the fleet, through the defiles of the mountains, where they would be every moment in danger of being ſurpriſed, and cut off by a bold and reſolute enemy, who knew that country too well, not to take advantage of it; and, at any rate, the ſcene at Fortingale is too much hemmed in by high mountains, and every way too limited, to admit of ſuch an extenſive engagement as that deſcribed by Tacitus.—The *ſecond* ſpot is at *Comrie*, near the head of Strathern, where there is likewiſe the appearance of a Roman camp, and where the ſcene, indeed, is leſs circumſcribed than the former; but here alſo objections occur. The ſtrath is narrow below and above, and the mountains riſe boldly from the vale. The general face of the country does not ſeem to accord with many of the expreſſions of Tacitus; nor does it appear well calculated for bringing into action the troops of horſe, (*turmæ equitum*,) and the *currus* or *covini*, the hook-armed chariots or cars of the Caledonians, which they then uſed in common with the other Britons. We do not recollect, at Comrie, any remarkable appearance of tumuli, indicating the ſcene of ſuch a battle. And here alſo the Roman army would have been too diſtant from the fleet, which is ſuppoſed, with great probability, to have been then riding at anchor in the mouth of the Tay.—The *third* place alleged to be the ſcene of the battle,

the park of Laighwood; and a 5th on the iſland of the Loch of Clunie, where a place of worſhip, dedicated to St Catharine, ſtood on the ſpot now occupied by Lord Airley's kitchen. Before the late reparation of the caſtle, one

battle, is near *Fettercairn*, in the county of the *Mearns*. Here, indeed, the army of the Romans would not have been at ſuch a diſtance from their fleet, ſuppoſing (with ſome) that the fleet had paſſed the Red-head, and was hovering ſomewhere off the adjacent coaſt. But this ſuppoſition is not ſo readily admiſſible; as the coaſt of Angus and Mearns, from the Red-head to Stonehive, is, in general, bold, rocky, and dangerous; and conſequently rather to be ſhunned than courted by the Roman fleet, eſpecially at that ſeaſon of the year, which ſeems to have been about the autumnal equinox, when the winds might have daſhed them againſt the rocks, or blown them out into the German Ocean. Beſides, we do not find in the Mearns any piece of antiquity ſo likely to have been a ſtation for the Roman legions, as the long vallum at Meiklour, now known by the name of Cleven-dike. But there ſeems to be one inſuperable objection to the ſcene in the Mearns: Tacitus expreſsly tells us, that, immediately after the engagement, Agricola marched off his army into the country of the Horeſti; "*in fines Horeſtorum exercitum deducit;*" and, as the Horeſti were the inhabitants of Angus and Mearns, it is not at all probable that ſuch an accurate hiſtorian as Tacitus would have uſed ſuch an expreſſion, if the battle had been fought any where within the limits of their country.—The *laſt* ſpot preſumed to have been the ſcene of this engagement, is the *Heer-cairns*, with the grounds in their neighbourhood. This, on an attentive inveſtigation, appears to be at leaſt as probable a ſcene as any of the four. Agricola could not, perhaps, in all Strathmore, have pitched upon a more favourable ſtation for his legions, than that large elevated plain comprehended between the Cleven-dike and the confluence of the Tay and the Ila. It is at no great diſtance from the mouth of the Tay, where the Roman army, in caſe of a defeat, might have had a more eaſy acceſs to their ſhips. On the W. it is defended by the ſteep bank of the Tay, and on the S. E. and N. E. by the banks of the Ila, and of the Lunan. It commands a diſtinct view of the higher grounds of the Stormont, to the N. and N. W. and it looks directly weſtward, on the entrance into the Highlands, by Dunkeld, which was then the capital of the Caledonians, and in the vicinity of which we may ſuppoſe it would be natural for them to hold their general rendezvous on this occaſion. This ſuppoſed ſtation of the Romans is about 3 or 4 miles

S. S. E.

one could eaſily perceive where the chapel had joined to it; and a few years ago, when the gardener was trenching the ground there, he dug up human bones in ſeveral places.

The

S. S. E. from that of the Caledonians at the *Buzzard-dikes*. And it ſeems that the Roman generals, in ancient times, (ſimilar to the practice of the moderns), frequently ſat down at ſuch a diſtance from the enemy, previous to a general engagement.—The ground which the Caledonians are thought to have then aſſumed as the ſcene of their martial atchievements, lies about 7 or 8 miles N. E. from Dunkeld, on the open declivities of the hills, facing the ſouth, and commanding a full proſpect of the lower Stormont and Strathmore. In ſeveral parts of this neighbourhood, the ſurface of the ground exhibits a ſingular appearance of long hilly ridges (or *drums*, anſwering very well to the "colles" of Tacitus), running parallel from W. to E. and riſing above one another, like the ſeats of a theatre. This appearance is remarkably exemplified at the *guard-drums*, which are partly incloſed by the Buzzard-dike or Vallum, which is ſtill, in many places, 8 or 10 feet high. This incloſure, through which the burn of Lornty paſſes, might be deſigned by the Caledonians principally as a place of ſecurity for their cattle and proviſions, as well as for their wives and children. Theſe "colles," or long extended eminencies, riſing gradually one above another, were well fitted for diſplaying the Caledonian army to the beſt advantage. And, from the ſplendid account given of it by Tacitus, one is led to conceive a magnificent idea of its appearance: "Jamque ſuper triginta millia armatorum conſpiciebantur, et ad-"huc affluebat omnis juventus, et quibus cruda ac viridis ſenectus, *clari* "*bello, ac ſua quiſque deco a geſtantes*." And again, "Britannorum acies "*in ſpeciem ſimul ac terrorem* editioribus locis conſtiterant; ita ut pri-"mum agmen æquo ceteri per acclive jugum connexi velut inſurgerent." —That the auxiliary troops, who fought the battle on the part of the Romans, were at ſome diſtance from the legionary ſtation, before they began the attack, appears plainly from this expreſſion of Tacitus: "*Arceſſendas* plerique legiones admonebant." "Moſt of them gave it as their advice, that the legions ought *to be ſent for*." Mr Playfair is of opinion, that the two armies might have met, and the line of battle might have been formed, ſomewhere on the lower grounds of *Balled* or *Balcairn*. If ſo, then Agricola's right wing might extend to the neighbourhood of that hill (above *Marlei*) which ſtill retains the name of *Craig-Roman*; where, as we are credibly informed, ſeveral Roman urns and Roman ſpurs

were

The iſland itſelf may be ranked among the antiquities of the pariſh. It is moſtly artificial, if not altogether ſo. It muſt have been formed with great labour, and in ſome very diſtant period too, as there is neither record nor tradition

were dug up, about 40 or 50 years ago, by the proprietor of the ground. The circumſtance of Roman *ſpurs* being found there, gives the more probability to our conjecture; becauſe the wings of the Roman army conſiſted of the 3000 cavalry, who, as Tacitus expreſſes it, "cornibus affunderentur," were widely extended on the wings, in order to prevent the Romans from being attacked in flank.—The grounds here would afford full ſcope for both armies to extend their lines in the manner deſcribed by Tacitus; and it is manifeſt from his deſcription, that the ſpaces of ground they then occupied, and over which they muſt have paſſed through the different ſtages of the engagement, were, in all probability, very conſiderable.—After the Batavian and Tungrian cohorts had begun, "erigere in colles aciem," the Caledonians would fall back towards their entrenchments above the *Heer-cairns*. It is poſſible, therefore, that theſe cairns (according to Mr Playfair's idea) may be the very ſpot, where, as Tacitus obſerves, "Britanni, qui adhuc pugnæ expertes, ſumma collium inſederant, et paucitatem noſtrorum vacui ſpernebant, degredi paullatim et circum in terga vincentium cæperant," when Agricola, by a maſterly manœuvre, turned the ſtratagem of the Caledonians againſt themſelves, and brought on the general rout. Then commenced that dreadful carnage of which the words of Tacitus are ſo wonderfully deſcriptive: "Paſſim arma, et corpora, et laceri artus, et cruenta humus," and of which the *Heer-cairns* may at this day be an affecting memorial.—The Caledonians, in their retreat northwards over *The Guard Drums*, ſeem to have faced about on the ſummit of each Drum, and there to have made a reſolute and bloody ſtand againſt their purſuers. This appears preſumable from the number and poſition of the tumuli on each of theſe Drums, and it brings to the mind of the ſpectator that ſtrong expreſſion of Tacitus, in which he pays an indirect compliment to the bravery of the vanquiſhed, "Aliquando etiam victis ira virtuſque." It likewiſe appears from the diſpoſition of the tumuli along the neighbouring hills, that the flight of the Caledonians, previous to their general diſperſion, was principally by two different routs; the one N. W. towards the woods of Strathardheil, and the other N. E. towards thoſe of Maus, where there is alſo a number of cairns, ſeemingly coeval with the others. In ſome of theſe Mr Playfair has lately dug up cinders and ſome little bits of human bones.

tion with reſpect to its formation. In papers dated 300 years ago, the oldeſt we have ſeen on the ſubject, it is termed the iſland of the loch of Clunie. The people here affirm, that it was once joined on the S. E. ſide to the continent; but this is not at all probable, as the land there lies at a very conſiderable diſtance, with deep water intervening. Its ſurface is a circular plain, of about half an acre, raiſed a few feet above the ordinary level of the loch, and ſurrounded with a ſtrong barrier of ſtones, thrown careleſsly together, and ſloping into deep water all around, like the fruſtum of a cone. On the N. E. quarter, the wave, which from that point has a pretty long courſe, has made viſible encroachments on the iſland, and laid bare the roots of ſome of the old trees, which, by conſequence, have of late years ſuffered very material decay. But Lord Airly is now taking ſteps to prevent ſuch devaſtations in future; and pity it were indeed, that ſuch a curioſity ſhould periſh merely through neglect. That this iſland has been formed principally by human art ſeems demonſtrable from this, that the ground of which it is compoſed is evidently factitious; and in lately digging to the depth of 7 feet, near the centre of the iſland, nothing like a natural ſtratum of earth

bones. And here, ſome have thought it probable, that Aulus Atticus, and ſome of the 33 Romans who fell with him in the battle, were burnt together in one funeral pile, at the great cairn, which is about 80 or 90 yards in circumference, and in the centre of which we had occaſion to ſee cinders turned up laſt ſummer, 1792.

Such, on the whole, are the conjectures we have been led to form on this ſubject, from our having examined the different ſcenes with ſome degree of attention. We offer them to the public, however, only as conjectures. And it is by no means our intention to enter into any controverſy on a ſubject, which, in all likelihood, will ever remain involved in obſcurity; and which muſt be conſidered as at beſt rather a matter of curioſity to the antiquary, than of real utility to mankind.

earth appeared. The foundation of the caſtle wall is ſeveral feet below the ſurface of the water, and in all likelihood reſts on piles of oak.

On the weſtern ſhore of the loch of Clunie ſtands the old caſtle-hill, a large green mound, partly natural and partly artificial, on the top of which are the ruins of a very old building. Some aged perſons ſtill alive remember to have ſeen a ſmall aperture, now inviſible, at the edge of one of the fragments of the ruins, where, if a ſtone was thrown in, it was heard for ſome time, as if rolling down a ſtair-caſe. From this it ſeems probable, that were a ſection of the hill to be made, ſome curious diſcoveries might be the conſequence. The caſtle-hill is of an elliptical form, extending in length from N. to S. about 190 yards at its baſe, and riſing about 50 feet above the level of the loch. A green terrace ſurrounds the hill; and on the N. ſide one terrace riſes above another. The area of the ſummit approaches to an elliptical plain, a little inclined towards the eaſt; of this plain, the longitudinal diameter, from N. to S. is about 90 yards, and the tranſverſe about 40. The old caſtle has ſtood on the ſouth end of the ſummit, commanding a diſtinct view of the neighbourhood, ſo as not to have been eaſily taken by ſurpriſe. Some veſtiges of it ſtill remain; but neither its form nor dimenſions can be traced with any degree of preciſion. The principal fortifications ſeem to have run along the land ſide, and the loch and the declivity of the hill appear to have defended it on the eaſt, where it is probable there has been an eaſy communication with the iſland by means of boats; ſo that, in caſe of the caſtle being taken, the iſland might afford a refuge to the beſieged. Concerning this piece of antiquity no written record can be found. According to the tradition of the neighbourhood, it was a ſummer palace or hunting-ſeat of Kenneth

Macalpin, who conquered the Picts, and united the Scottiſh and Pictiſh kingdoms; and if we ſuppoſe this tradition to be well founded, it is not unlikely that it was he who firſt formed the iſland in the loch, as a place of retreat in time of danger.

In the flat grounds of the park of Laighwood, on the north ſide of the burn of Lunan, are the ruins of another old caſtle, which appears to have been fortified on all ſides by ditches filled with water. On the north ſide was the principal draw bridge, with an avenue of very old trees leading to it, ſome of the laſt of which were cut down in the memory of the preſent generation. A chapel and burying ground are ſaid to have adjoined to the caſtle, on the ſouth ſide, where human bones have been found. On the W. and S. W. ſides are the remains of later buildings; but nothing of the original caſtle is now to be ſeen, except two vaults, and a ſmall part of an under gallery, with two loopholes, pointing towards the draw-bridge, which are viſible within, but without are blinded by the rubbiſh. With regard to this ruin, alſo, record is ſilent. Probably it was likewiſe a hunting-ſeat of ſome of our old Scottiſh kings. The tradition concerning it is, that William Sinclair, biſhop of Dunkeld, afterward to be taken notice of, was the laſt perſon who reſided here, and hence it is called Sinclair's caſtle to this day.

Eminent Men.—The people here ſpeak much of the prodigious bodily ſtrength of one William Gordon, who was a ſon of one of the laſt Epiſcopalian miniſters of this pariſh, and who fell at the battle of Sheriffmuir, in the year 1715, fighting on the ſide of the Earl of Mar. The above mentioned William Sinclair makes a figure in the Hiſtory of Scotland. He was diſtinguiſhed by the appellations of the military biſhop, and the champion of the king-

dom;

dom; and that he was as much formed for wielding the ſword, as for wearing the ſurplice, appears from the follow-part of his hiſtory: "When he reſided at his palace of Aughtertool in Fife, the ſheriff of that county went with a body of 500 men, to make head againſt the Engliſh, who had landed in that neighbourhood; but obſerving that the country was laid waſte, and that the enemy kept a good countenance, the ſheriff fell back as faſt as he could. On hearing this, the biſhop armed himſelf, took horſe with about 60 of his people, who were well diſciplined, ſoon meets the ſheriff, cries aloud, "What madneſs is it in you to run away at this rate?" The ſheriff replied, "Becauſe the Engliſh are more numerous and better ſoldiers than we are." "If you got your due, ſays the biſhop, the king would cauſe chop off your golden ſpurs; but follow me, and with the aſſiſtance of St Columbus, whoſe lands they lay waſte, we ſhall have our revenge." With theſe words he throws away his biſhop's ſtaff, graſps his ſword, turns himſelf to the ſheriff, with this expreſſion, "Do follow me." They did follow him, came up with the enemy, and happily obtained a complete victory. There fell that day more than 500 Engliſh, beſides a number, who, by crowding into their boat, overſet it and were all drowned." Sinclair was a great favourite of the king, (David II.), who always in converſation called him "My own biſhop;" and the letters he wrote to him were addreſſed, "To our biſhop." Sinclair died 27th June 1337, having filled the ſee of Dunkeld 25 years. He was buried in the quire of Dunkeld, which he built from the foundation; and in memorial of this work, he cauſed to be erected on the top of the eaſt gable of the quire, (the preſent church of Dunkeld), a fluted croſs, (part of the armorial bearings of his family), which is ſtill ſtanding there.—Biſhop George Brown, of whom we made mention on a former occaſion, died

died in the caſtle on the iſland of the loch of Clunie, the 14th January 1514, in the 2d year of the reign of James V. He was of the family of Midmar. He ſtudied grammar at Dundee, and philoſophy at St Andrew's; and was afterward promoted to be chancellor of Aberdeen. Being ſent to Rome by the King, on a meſſage relative to the ſee of Glaſgow, he became acquainted with the college of cardinals, and particularly with the vice-chancellor Roderigo Borja, who, by his intereſt with Pope Sextus IV. got Brown raiſed to the ſee of Dunkeld. Being in his old age much afflicted with the gravel, he retired to his caſtle on the iſland of Clunie, for which he had a peculiar predilection, and which he built from the foundation, all but the vault of the great tower. He is repreſented as a man of ſome learning and public ſpirit, but of much ambition and rapacity. By influence and dexterity, not altogether juſtifiable, he found means to enlarge conſiderably the bounds of his dioceſe. He could ride by 4 different ways from Dunkeld to Clunie, all on his own ground. It was he who began the ſtone bridge acroſs the Tay at Dunkeld, 1 arch of which he lived to ſee completed in ſummer 1513; but this bridge was never finiſhed. In the ſee of Dunkeld, he was the immediate predeceſſor of Galvin Douglas, the elegant tranſlator of Virgil.

James Crichton, known by the name of the *admirable Crichton*, who makes ſuch a diſtinguiſhed figure in the literary annals of Europe, is ſaid to have been born on the iſland of Clunie. This was confidently aſſerted by the oldeſt people of this pariſh who have died in the memory of the preſent incumbent; they were educated in this creed, and unwilling to hear of any thing advanced to the contrary. We have, however, ſeen no records that aſcertain the place of his birth. We know for certain, that he was

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the ſon of Sir Robert Crichton of Elliock, Lord Advocate of Scotland, who was proprietor of the whole barony of Clunie, and who was ſucceeded in that property by his oldeſt ſon Sir David Crichton, the initials of whoſe name, together with thoſe of his wife's, who was an anceſtor of the preſent Stewarts of Ballechin, are ſtill to be ſeen, with a lion rampant, all in relief, on a triangular ſtone in the eaſt wall of the caſtle. Without entering into any diſquiſition with reſpect to the wonderful abilities of James Crichton, which we believe his eulogiſts have greatly exaggerated, we beg leave to refer for particulars to the new Edinburgh Encyclopædia, which contains perhaps the moſt unexceptionable account of him. His ſucceſſive adventures at Paris, Rome, Venice, Padua, and Mantua, are recorded at large in the 3d vol. of Dr M'Kenzie's Scotch lives; in the 81ſt No. of the Adventurer; in the 1ſt vol. of Pennant's firſt Tour through Scotland; and in the Edinburgh Magazine and Review for June 1774, in which laſt, there is a ſmall portrait of Crichton, taken from the original paintings of him, which are ſaid to be ſtill extant in many collections on the continent. He was repreſented on horſeback, with a ſword in the one hand, and a book in the other, as emblems of his having excelled equally in the manual and literary exerciſes. At Venice he contracted an intimate friendſhip with the younger Manutius, a man of great learning, and of an honeſt and reſpectable character, who relates many things of him on his own perſonal knowledge. He was an eye-witneſs to Crichton's behaviour, both in the preſence of the Doge and Senate of Venice, and at the diſputation at Padua; and may therefore be regarded as an indubitable teſtimony to the truth of both. The cauſe and manner of Crichton's premature and unhappy death, will perhaps ſtill remain in ſome degree of obſcurity; but we have the authority of Manutius for believing

that

that the Court of Mantua ordered a general mourning for him; and this circumſtance alone, independent of every other panegyric, throws an indelible luſtre on his memory. A mong the many epitaphs that lamented his death, it may not be improper, in a repoſitory of this kind, to inſert the following one by Johnſon in his inſcriptions on Scottiſh heroes:

JACOBUS CRITONIUS CLUNIUS*

Muſarum pariter ac Martis alumnus, omnibus in ſtudiis, ipſis etiam Italis admirabilis, Mantuæ a ducis Mantuani filio nocturnis inſidiis occiſus eſt anno Chriſti 1581.

Et genus et cenſum dat Scotia; Gallia pectus
Excolit: Admirans Itala terra virum
Ambit, et eſſe ſuum vellet: Gens æmula vitam
Abſtulit; an ſatis hoc dicat ut illa ſuum?
Mantua habet cineres, ſcelus execrata nefandum;
At tumuli tanto gaudet honori tamen.

Remarkable

* For the ſake of thoſe who ſeem to be of opinion that the wonderful Crichton was not a cadet of the Clunie family of that name, but of the family of Elliock, we here beg leave to quote the following intelligence, collected from the chartulary of the Earl of Airly, and obligingly communicated to us by Mr Thomas Mitchell at Craig, preſent factor on the Airly eſtate: "The loch, iſland, and chapel of St Catharine, within the loch, together with other parts of the barony of Clunie, and teinds of the whole, anciently belonged to the Biſhop of Dunkeld, the reſt of the barony to the Herons of Glaſclune. About the commencement of the Reformation, that part which pertained to Heron was appriſed from him by Robert (afterwards Sir Robert) Crichton of Elliock, King's Advocate of Scotland; and at the ſame time George Crichton, Biſhop of Dunkeld, who was a brother of Sir Robert's, diſponed to him his whole property in the barony, with this remarkable reſervation, that it ſhould be in the Biſhop's power, at any time he pleaſed, to reſume it, and incumbent on the diſponee to yield it, and all title thereto, and to remove therefrom, upon

Remarkable Seaſons and Occurrences.—In the dry ſeaſon of 1723, the crop here, though very rich, owing probably to the fertilizing dews that fell in the night time, was ſo ſhort, that a boll of corn, with all its ſtraw, could eaſily be contained within the four corners of an ordinary ſheet or canvaſs; there was, however, no ſcarcity of fodder, the ſubſequent winter being ſo exceedingly mild, that the cattle were never houſed from the one end of it to the other.—In June 1724, a tremenduous water-ſpout broke upon the higher parts of this pariſh, and engulphed the declivities, in ſuch a manner, that the marks of it are in many places ſtill viſible.—The long and ſevere froſt of 1740 was followed

upon 40 days warning. The reaſon for this is very obvious: The two brothers had conſidered, that if the alteration in religion ſhould take effect, the church would be plundered of its patrimony; and it would be as well that Sir Robert ſhould get a part of that which belonged to the ſee of Dunkeld, as another; and, if the old eſtabliſhment ſhould again prevail, the Biſhop would have been reſtored to his own. Upon the rights I have mentioned, Sir Robert Crichton procured afterwards a charter of confirmation and *novodamus* from King James VI. of the whole barony of Clunie, loch, iſland, &c. with the advocation, donation, and right of patronage of the pariſh and pariſh-kirk of Clunie, and chapel of St Catharine, within the loch. And the ſame were enjoyed by him, and his ſon and ſucceſſor, &c. There is nothing in this that contradicts the opinion which my Lord Buchan has formed, that the mirabilis Crichton was a ſon of Sir Robert Crichton of Elliock, as Sir Robert might be at one time deſigned of Elliock, and at another of Clunie."

From Mylne's manuſcript hiſtory of the Biſhops of Dunkeld, we find that George Crichton filled that ſee from the year 1522 to 1559. His diſpoſition of the lands of Clunie to his brother, muſt have happened ſome time in the intermediate ſpace. On the rights diſponed to him by the Biſhop, Sir Robert would naturally take poſſeſſion not only of the property, but probably of the palace of Clunie too, eſpecially as it muſt have been then in high accommodation, having been lately built and inhabited by Biſhop Brown, and eſteemed at that time one of the principal houſes of this country. The ſuppoſition, therefore, that his ſon, the admirable Crichton, who died a young man, in the year 1581, was born on the iſland of Clunie, ſeems to poſſeſs the higheſt degree of probability.

lowed by a very bad crop, owing, in part, perhaps, to the ground being ploughed in the ſpring before the froſt was thoroughly looſened at the bottom of the furrow; a ſcarcity enſued; and ſome of the inhabitants of this pariſh were obliged in the winter to travel as far as Murrayſhire for meal, which they brought acroſs the mountains with conſiderable labour and expenſe.—The drought of ſummer 1766 parched the crop here to ſuch a degree, that in the autumn many of the corn-fields, inſtead of being cut down with the ſickle, were paſtured by the horſes and cows; but the mildneſs of the enſuing winter prevented any hard conſequences.—In Auguſt 1769, another water-ſpout, accompanied with dreadful thunder and lightning, fell here of an afternoon, from the S. E.; and in a few minutes ſwelled the torrents to an amazing height, ſwept off ſeveral of the bridges, and did conſiderable damage to the ſtanding corns.—In 1782 no great hardſhip was ſuffered here, as ſome of the moſt ſubſtantial farmers had meal in reſerve, which, when a mob was threatened, they ſold off at the rate of 20 s. the boll.—The great meteor of the 18th Auguſt 1783, exhibited no phenomena here different from thoſe obſerved in other parts of this country, and deſcribed in the tranſactions of that year. Its paſſage from N. W. to S. E. was marked here about 18 minutes after 9 o'clock P. M.—On the 22d of July 1786, about noon-day, a hurricane, reſembling a tornado, preceded by a deceitful calm, burſt ſuddenly, with a noiſe like thunder, from the weſt; and, being collected into a current by the high grounds on each ſide of the Lunan, raged here with prodigious violence, till about a quarter after 12 o'clock noon; during which time it unroofed ſeveral houſes, and diſmantled or overturned ſome of the oldeſt and ſtouteſt trees in the diſtrict. A ſtately beech, that ſtood on the lawn before the door of the houſe of Forneth, and was eſteemed the firſt

inanimate beauty of the place, was rooted up; 4 old planes fell on the adjoining bank, and, at the ſame time, on the iſland of Clunie, 5 venerable trees, that had withſtood the blaſts of centuries, and ſheltered the iſland on the N. W. were laid flat on the ground. The waters of the loch underwent an unuſual agitation, and the ſpray was whirled in ſhowers over the neighbouring grounds to a conſiderable diſtance. This hurricane, by far the moſt dreadful we ever had occaſion to witneſs, was termed by the people here an *earth wind*, and ſuppoſed to have been accompanied with ſome degree of earthquake.—About the end of February 1788, there was here a very deep fall of ſnow, ſuddenly followed by a ſmart thaw and heavy rain, which occaſioned ſuch an inundation of the loch of Clunie, as has not been ſeen during the preſent century. The whole iſland was immerſed for upwards of two hours, and its trees and caſtle ſeemed to float on the ſurface of the water. The meadow of Clunie lay under water 4 feet deep, and two men ſailed acroſs it, in a ſtraight line, all the way from the caſtle-hill, to the wall of the new garden of Forneth, without meeting with the ſmalleſt obſtruction. —On the 19th of November 1791, at half paſt 7 o'clock P. M. a fire-ball of uncommon magnitude, apparently as large, or very nearly as large as the diſk of the moon, was obſerved here in its paſſage from S. S. W. to N. N. E. Its elevation ſeemed conſiderable, and its motion rapid. For a few ſeconds, it illuminated the country all around very diſtinctly. It emitted ſparks, and left a train behind it; and, a little to the northward of our zenith, it divided into two leſſer balls, which alſo emitted ſparks, and moved with equal velocity, their diſtance increaſing as they proceeded in their courſe to N. N. E. Before they reached the verge of our horizon, they both diſappeared at the ſame inſtant, a little below the great ſtar in the conſtellation of Auriga; and about a minute after

their diſappearance, we heard from that quarter of the heavens a loud exploſion, ſimilar to that from the diſcharge of a piece of ordnance. The meteor was obſerved, and the exploſion was heard at Dunkeld-houſe, and the time there correſponded with the obſervation here. A few days afterward, a ſevere froſt ſet in here, with ſome ſnow, and continued, with a few momentary intervals of thaw, till the end of January 1792, during all which time the ſurface of the ground was one ſheet of ice: The people were obliged to carry in water to their cattle; and neither man nor horſe could venture abroad without having their feet ſecured with iron. A remarkable rainy ſeaſon followed; the moſt luxuriant part of the crop was lodged in the beginning of Auguſt, and never ripened; harveſt was not got home till near the middle of November, and even then in very poor condition; ſuch of the crop as has been already threſhed out is by no means productive: The barley is found very unfit for malting, and in many places, it requires two bolls of oats to yield one boll of meal. The meal is in general very indifferent in its quality. The people are naturally apprehenſive of bad conſequences. But their greateſt ſuffering at preſent ariſes from their want of fuel. The peats that were caſt laſt ſummer, could neither be got dried, nor carried home, on account of the inceſſant rains. A boll of coals, *i. e.* 42 ſtone weight, coſts juſt now (Chriſtmas 1792), 8s. Sterling at the ſhore of Perth, and on account of the extreme badneſs of the roads, it coſts 4s. more for the carriage of it to Dunkeld.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The farmers, in general, enjoy the great advantage of a perennial fountain of good water in their immediate neighbourhood. We obſerved, that in the higher parts of the pariſh there is plenty of good peat, and, in the lower parts, broom, furze and bruſh-

wood,

wood, all ſerving as the common fuel of the inhabitants. Good ſtones every where abound, for building fences and houſes. Marl of an excellent quality lies at no great diſtance, and the ground is well calculated for marl; beſides, it has almoſt every where a ſlope, favourable for draining; and though in many places it is difficult to be cleared, yet in ordinary ſeaſons, and under due management, it never fails to repay the labour and expenſe beſtowed upon it. The farmers begin to be ſenſible of theſe advantages, and to make a proper uſe of them. But, on the other hand, they labour under ſeveral inconveniencies, which, it is hoped, will in a ſhort time be removed. Servants wages are exorbitant. The want of day-labourers is a great hindrance to agricultural improvement. The tenants cannot be reconciled to the idea of meliorating their climate and ſoil, by raiſing belts of feathered wood on the N. E. and W. ſides of incloſures. The burn of Lunan is ſuffered to inundate and render half uſeleſs many valuable acres of ground in the park of Laighwood, and barony of Clunie, a devaſtation that might be prevented in both places by ſtraighting and banking the burn, which, it is thought, could be done in a ſubſtantial manner, at an expenſe not exceeding L. 200 Sterling. The materials for building good houſes abound in the pariſh; many of the people live in miſerable ſmoky cribs, more like ſties for hogs than habitations for men. Several of the farmers have too ſhort leaſes, and ſome of them no leaſes at all; and conſequently, are diſcouraged from carrying on improvements to any extent. The old oppreſſive cuſtoms of bonnage, thirlage, and ſervitudes, (diſgraceful to the country, and to humanity), are not yet quite aboliſhed. The public roads, though lately ſomewhat improved, are ſtill, during one half of the year at leaſt, extremely indifferent; though there is ſome reaſon to expect, that the commutation of

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the ſtatute-labour, which begins to take place, and the committing the reparation of theſe roads to active hands, will be productive of good effects. The peat moſſes are diſtant, and high in the hills; and the roads that lead to them, are fit only for killing the horſes, and daſhing the carts in pieces. The tenants here, as in many other parts, are obliged to ſpend too much of their time in providing the neceſſary fuel for the winter. There is no coal nearer us than the ſhore of Perth; the river Tay, broad and deep, runs between; and there is not a bridge acroſs it, in its whole courſe, from Aberfeldy to Perth, *i. e.* in a courſe of upwards of 40 miles. There is, however, a certain proſpect of much benefit accruing to this part of the country, from the new road marked out from Perth to the river Ila, and from the bridge that is about to be built acroſs that river at Meiklour, which will greatly facilitate the carriage of coal and lime, and other neceſſary articles from Perth.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF CRANSTON,

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

By the Rev. Mr WALTER FISHER.

Extent, Climate, Surface, &c.

ITS extent is about 5 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The climate, though ſubject to the variable weather of the iſland, is mild and healthful. If any diſtemper, more frequent than another, attack the inhabitants, it is the ague, a complaint which chiefly prevails in the ſpring, when the eaſterly wind often becomes a trade wind, is loaded with cold vapour, and felt in all its ſeverity on the eaſtern parts of the iſland. The face of the pariſh is unequal, but the fine ſeats, the gentle ſwellings of the ground, the intermixture of incloſures and plantations, render it extremely beautiful. The proſpects from the higher grounds are at once rich and extenſive. The river Tyne runs through the pariſh from S. to N. and though here but a rivulet, yet it widens in its progreſs, before it falls into the

the Forth at Tynningham. Its banks are decorated with handſome and noble ſeats. In this pariſh, the magnificent ſtructures of Oxenford caſtle and Preſton hall, planted on oppoſite banks of the river, the pictureſque but natural formation of grounds, the fields chequered with trees, and crowned with corns; all theſe arreſt the eye of the traveller, and preſent to his view a landſcape equal to ſome of the moſt cultivated ſpots in England.

Manufactures, &c.—The ſtaple commodity of the pariſh is corn. Oats are carried to Dalkeith, where there is a weekly market, the beſt in Scotland for that ſpecies of grain, and ſold to meal makers at a ready money price. Peaſe and beans are carried to the ſame market. Wheat is ſold to bakers or ſtarch makers; and barley to brewers, diſtillers, or barley makers. Quarries of freeſtone, limeſtone, and pitcoal, are wrought in ſeveral places, and make a good return to the proprietors. The price of a boll of ſhells is 10 d. and 1 s.; and of a load of coals, equal to 2 cwt. 5 d. Near to Couſland are a brick work and a pottery. At Upper Cranſton, works have been lately erected for extracting tar from pitcoal; an ingenious proceſs, which reflects much honour on the Earl of Dundonald, who made the diſcovery, and enjoys by patent an excluſive privilege for the manufacture. The coals are put into ovens, and after being kindled, are ſlowly decompoſed; while the volatile parts fly off into ſeparate reſervoirs, where they are condenſed. Each condenſer has two ovens appropriated to it, and between the ovens and condenſers is placed a long leaden ciſtern filled with water, in order to haſten the proceſs. The condenſed fluid is then conveyed from the condenſers, by a cock into wooden pipes, which lead it into a pit; from whence it is pumped into the ſtill. By the act of diſtillation, or boiling, the ſteam flies off into another large

large wooden veſſel, where it is condenſed into an *oil and volatile ſpirit.* The diſtillation continues for the ſpace of 4½ days, when the reſiduum in the ſtill makes excellent *tar.* The oil and ſpirit are then drawn off into a ſmaller veſſel, and as the oil ſwims on the top, a ſeparation is eaſily made, by drawing off the ſpirit. If the tar is boiled in the ſtill for 5½ days, the ſtuff remaining in the ſtill is then called *half pitch*; and ſhould the proceſs be continued a day longer, it would become as brittle as glaſs. The volatile ſpirit is diſtilled a ſecond time before it is expoſed to ſale, and afterwards made into *hartſhorn* by the chymiſt. A *bright varniſh* is produced, by mixing one gallon of the foreſaid oil with ſix lb. roſin, and then boiling them together; and a *black varniſh*, by mixing and boiling together 4 lb. roſin, 1 gallon of the above oil, and 1 Scotch pint of the half pitch. The Britiſh tar is of a blacker colour, and has a finer ſkin than common tar. It contains no water like the latter, and its quality is injured by any mixture of lamp black, red and white lead, oil or tallow. Vegetable tar, containing an acid that corrodes iron, does not anſwer as a preſervative from ruſt; but this tar, poſſeſſing no ſuch corroſive quality, is found to be an effectual covering for guns, ſhot, bolts, and all iron work. Its principal recommendation however is, that it is excellently adapted for paying the bottoms of ſhips, and preſerving wooden work, that is expoſed to the weather, or liable to be worm-eaten. If the half pitch cannot be readily procured, when required, the tar may be brought to that conſiſtence, by boiling it a ſufficient time; to be aſcertained by dipping into it a chip of wood, which on cooling, will ſhow when the tar has acquired the proper degree. The tar and pitch muſt always be heated before they are applied. On wooden work, firſt lay on the tar quite hot, and then a coat of warm pitch. Piles that are to be dri-

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ven into the ground, ſhould be well heated, before the
are dipped into the half pitch. Nails are lackered, b
heating them in a wire baſket over a ſtove, and haſtil
dipping them, while hot, into the tar. As they cool, th
tar dries on them, and when thus prepared, they are no
apt to ruſt, or render the wood what is called iron-ſick
Worms do not penetrate into wood that has been proper
ly impregnated with the tar; if the bottom of a veſſe
therefore be of fir, all that is neceſſary is to fire her well
and while the plank is hot, to lay on a coat of the tar heat
ed in a pot. When the ſeams are chaulked, finiſh th
whole with a coat of half pitch prepared in the ſame man
ner. But as oak, from its cloſe texture, will not imbib
a ſufficient quantity of tar, to preſerve it againſt the worm
for any length of time, it is neceſſary to ſheath oak bot
tomed veſſels with white fir wood, impregnated with th
tar, to lacker the ſheathing nails, and lay over all a coat
of half pitch to finiſh it off. Britiſh varniſh is preferable
to turpentine varniſh, becauſe the oil of which it is made
is of a more penetrating nature than that of turpentine.
The effect it has, when laid on wood, is to cloſe its pores
by filling them with the roſin it contains, and thus to ren
der white, or ſap wood, equal in quality to red. The
bright or clear varniſh is uſed in the ſame manner as tur
pentine varniſh, and anſwers as a ſubſtitute for lintſeed oil
in painting all colours, except with red and white lead
when dry; but if theſe be ground with oil, it is then equal
to turpentine varniſh, and comes much cheaper. The
black varniſh is deſigned for all parts of a veſſel expoſed
to the weather, where paint or pitch is not uſed. It dries
faſt, and gives a fine gloſs to the wood. The tar, before it
is boiled, is ſold for greaſing carts at 6 d. a Scotch pint.
A barrel of boiled tar containing 32 gallons Engliſh meaſ
ſure, is ſold at the works for L. 1, 3 s. Sterling. And
yard

yard of board laid over with it coſts about a halfpenny. A barrel of half pitch, containing 32 gallons Engliſh meaſure, is ſold at L. 1, 5 s. The oil at 2 s. 6 d. the gallon; the bright and black varniſh at the ſame price; and the volatile ſpirit, after a ſecond diſtillation, at 8 s. 6 d. the cwt. The reſiduum of the coals in the ovens proves to be good *cinders*, which are ſold to founders and brewers at 9 d. the boll.

Antiquities, &c.—Couſland was burnt by Somerſet, when he invaded Scotland with a powerful army, to enforce the marriage of the beautiful Mary with the young King of England. Though the Union of the two kingdoms was an important and deſirable object, yet this was certainly a rough mode of making love to a Queen.—On the ſouth ſide of this village, are to be ſeen the ruins of ſome buildings, with two incloſures ſurrounded by high walls. No authentic account of them, after much reſearch, can be found; but if we may credit tradition, they are the remains of a nunnery. The higheſt wall, commonly called the White Dike, at preſent meaſures 24 feet, and the reſt vary in height from 5 to 11. The incloſures were undoubtedly orchards, ſince cherry trees and gooſeberry buſhes were ſtill growing a few years ago. That there was a church yard here, and a bell to be ſeen hanging in the end of the chapel, till it was carried off by ſome tinkers, are facts ſupported by the teſtimony of perſons ſtill alive. Hence it is probable, that it was a religious foundation, and perhaps dedicated to St Bartholomew, ſince there are ſome acres of ground to the ſouthward, which retain the name of Bartholomew's Firlot. The old manſe which ſtood near to Preſtonhall, is ſaid to have been a reſting place for the religious in their way to Melroſe. No date could be diſcovered on the building, but over one of

the windows was the following inſcription in the Monkiſh ſtyle, 'Diverſorium infra, Habitaculum ſupra.' At Upper Cranſton ſtands a venerable green holly, perhaps the largeſt in the iſland, with too evident marks of old age and decay. It meaſures $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, or 2 feet 4.64 inches in diameter, and where it divides into branches, the trunk is no more than 7 feet high. At Caickmoor, there is a thriving beech 16 feet round, or 5 feet 1.11 inches in diameter, and at Preſtonhall, another 15 feet round, or 4 feet 9.29 inches in diameter. Theſe trees, from their near ſituation to the manſion houſes, ſeem to have been planted at firſt in the garden ground, to which circumſtance we muſt in ſome meaſure aſcribe the great ſize they now exhibit.

Huſbandry, &c.—It was in this pariſh that the firſt example of the drill huſbandry was given. Sir John Dalrymple of Couſland, grandfather to the preſent Baronet, was the firſt perſon who introduced into Scotland the ſowing of turnip, and the planting of cabbages in the open field. He alſo greatly improved the breed of horſes and black cattle, and was among the firſt who ſowed clover and rye graſs. Mr Cockburn of Ormiſton, and he, both of them diſtinguiſhed by zeal for their country, and a paſſion for agriculture, eſtabliſhed at Ormiſton a ſociety, which had for its object the improvement of huſbandry. Beſides actual farmers, perſons of the firſt rank in the country, were proud of being inrolled as members of that club. The Duke of Perth, and John Earl of Stair, regularly attended its monthly meetings. The ſoil of this pariſh conſiſts partly of clay or ſtiff lands, and partly of thoſe that are light. The whole is arable, in general fertile, and well adapted for producing all kinds of grain. The ſtate of agriculture is much the ſame as in other pariſhes of Mid-

Lothian. Two-horſe ploughs are univerſally employed, and the plough held in higheſt eſtimation is that made by J. Small at Roſebank, which is deſervedly conſidered as the greateſt improvement agriculture has received for many years. Mr Small publiſhed ſome time ago an account of his plough in a particular treatiſe, and ſince that publication, he has made a farther improvement, by ſubſtituting, in place of the wooden head, one of caſt metal. Laſt year, (1791,) the firſt experiment was made with a plough ſo mounted in this pariſh, and before proper judges. Though the field pitched on was very rough, and ſix horſes were yoked and driven on at a great rate, yet the caſt metal head was not in the leaſt damaged. Since that time practice proves, that no force ever neceſſary to be applied to the plough can injure it. The value of this improved plough appears from its being univerſally adopted, and the great commiſſions the inventor receives. The advantage of alternate green and white crops is ſufficiently underſtood; but though the turnip huſbandry was firſt practiſed here, and the nature of the ſoil in many parts is very favourable to that ſyſtem, yet turnips are ſcarcely cultivated at preſent. The turnip huſbandry requires ſo accurate a ſkill in the buying and ſelling of cattle, that every perſon is not qualified for conducting it. It is a curious fact, that, when turnips were firſt cultivated in the pariſh, during thoſe early experiments, no manure, it was imagined, would anſwer for raiſing them, but the beſt which Edinburgh produced. The principal productions are wheat, barley, oats, peaſe, beans, hay; and the beſt rotation that is obſerved is fallow, wheat, peaſe, barley, graſs and oats. Some of the farmers drive manure, from the diſtance of 4 or 5 miles, and up hill, to improve their ſtiff lands, every cubic yard of which, when laid on the land, coſts them about 5 s. The farms are laid out from 100 to 500 acres. The rent

of

of land runs from 5 s. to 30 s. an acre, and a few fields of good quality are let ſo high as L. 2 the acre. A mildew infects the banks of the Tyne from Cranſton to Pencaitland, and ſometimes does material damage to wheat and oats. The lands about Ormiſton generally ſuffer more than any other part of the tract where it prevails. The rent of the pariſh is about L. 2800 Sterling, and the valued rent is L. 6208 : 1 : 4 Scots. The rent of the ſmalleſt farm is L. 35, and of the greateſt L. 300 *.

Population, &c.—The population, according to Dr Webſter's report, was 725. From an exact ſurvey made in the 1792, the number of ſouls amounted to 839; males, 376, females, 463. After extracting 3 different periods from the pariſh regiſter, the number of births ſtood as follows: from 1715 to 1726, the males were 112, and the females 144, total 256; from 1739 to 1750, the males were 106, and the females 111, total 217; and from 1779 to 1790, the males were 90, and the females 95, total 185. The average of male births, therefore, for the ſpace of 30 years, is ſomewhat more than 10, of female more than 11, and of both, nearly 22 yearly. From this extract, however, it would not be a juſt concluſion to infer, that the number of births, and conſequently the population, has been on the decreaſe; becauſe every year, on account of the ſeceſſion, the neglect or poverty of parents, ſeveral births are omitted to be inſerted in the pariſh regiſter. The average of marriages, for the ſpace of 10 years, amounted to 8, but the regiſter where they are inſerted has not been kept with any exactneſs. There are 3 villages in

* The wages of a ploughman during the half year, are from L. 2, 15 s. to L. 3, 6 s. and of a hind from L. 5 to L. 5, 10 s. during the year, with graſs for a cow, and 2 pecks of meal in the week. The hire of a day-labourer is 10 d. and 1 s. in winter, and 1 s. 2 d. in ſummer.

in the pariſh, Cranſton, Couſland, and Preſton; the population of Cranſton is 81 males, 106 females, total 187; of Couſland, 68 males, 94 females, total 162; and of Preſton, 29 males, 46 females, total 75.

Seceders,	26	Weavers,	4
Epiſcopalians,	4	Shoemakers,	2
Heritors reſiding,	2	Tailors,	3
Farmers,	14	Millers,	2
Surgeon,	1	Baker,	1
Retailers of ſmall groceries,	7	Gardeners,	4
Innkeepers,	2	Sheriff officer,	1
Smiths,	3	Juſtice Peace officer,	1
Maſons,	3	Schoolmaſters,	2
Carpenters,	4	Clergyman,	1

The rent of a houſe is from 12 s. to 20 s. There is no characteriſtical difference between the inhabitants of this and the other pariſhes of Mid-Lothian. If there be any ground for animadverſion, the abuſe of ſpiritous liquors among the lower ranks affords it. Where ſuch a habit prevails, the health ſuffers, buſineſs is neglected, and poverty follows of courſe. Theſe pernicious effects were not ſo common, when ale and beer were more generally drunk. It would certainly then be an eſſential ſervice to the community, to impoſe ſuch a duty on ſpiritous liquors, or to transfer it from ale and beer to them, as would diminiſh the number of low tippling houſes, and bring back the people to the ſafer uſe of malt liquor.

Stipend and Poor.—The ſtipend is L. 57 : 6 : 11$\frac{4}{12}$ in money, 16 bolls 2 pecks 1 lippy of barley, 32 bolls 1 peck 1 lippy of oats, and 2 bolls 3 pecks of wheat. The living is in the gift of Lady Dalrymple Hamilton Macgill, repreſentative

repreſentative of the Viſcounts of Oxenford. The manſion houſe and lands of Eaſt Caickmoor, though disjoined by the pariſh of Crichton, yet belong to this pariſh, and pay ſtipend to the miniſter.—The poor are ſupported from the weekly collections, and the intereſt of money left by charitable perſons for their behoof; a fund which has hitherto anſwered every demand, and conſequently there has been no aſſeſſment. The number of poor is from 14 to 19, and their capital at intereſt is L. 357 Sterling. In this pariſh, there is a Friendly Society, lately inſtituted for the ſupport of its diſtreſſed members and indigent widows. The regulations, dictated by experience, or copied from ſimilar ſocieties of a long ſtanding, ſeem well calculated to anſwer the ends of the inſtitution. Such aſſociations merit the countenance of the landed intereſt, becauſe they tend to leſſen the number of the poor, and retard a general aſſeſſment.

NUM-

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF KILCONQUHAR,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREW'S.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER SMALL.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

KILCONQUHAR is derived probably either from *Cella*, the cell or chapel of a saint or monk, called *Conachar*; or from the Gaelic *Kil*, a place of worship or interment, and Conachar. From S. to N. that is, from the sea to the borders of the parish of Ceres, it is about 8 English miles in length; and, in general, about 2 in breadth. It is situated in that part of the county of Fife, which, on account of the narrowness of the land, jutting out into the German Sea, and washed by the friths of the Forth and the Tay, is called the East Nook of Fife. Its surface is somewhat irregular, being flat in the south for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the sea; rising gently towards the north for about 2 miles; then, after a small declivity, ascending again towards the north for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, on the north of which the ground

is

is partly flat, but, for the moſt part, declining towards the north. The ſoil in the ſouthern part is light and ſandy, but by proper culture, bears rich crops; in the higher ground of the very beautiful and fertile bank that faces the ſea, it is deep black loam; in ſome places, very rich clay. In the northern parts, though it is in ſome places abundantly rich, the climate is leſs favourable; the ſoil too, in many places, being a clay bottom mixed with ſand, is of inferior quality, and leſs productive; it is now arable in general; not long ſince, a great part of it was taken from moors; in dry ſeaſons, however, it yields good crops; much wheat and barley of excellent quality is raiſed in the ſouthern parts; peaſe and beans alſo, and every kind of grain that is uſual in this country, ſucceed well here.

Agriculture, &c.—Though the farmers are not attached to any particular mode of farming, the following is a rotation of crops frequently obſerved here, wheat, turnip, or any green crop, barley, and clover *. There are few oats raiſed in the lower part of the pariſh, but they are much uſed in the higher grounds. Sometimes we ſtand in need of importation of oats and oat-meal; while we export conſiderable quantities of wheat, barley, peaſe and beans, and ſome potatoes. The late Earl of Balcarras, about 40 years ago, introduced field turnip into his plan of farming, and fed oxen with them to a great extent; the uſe of that valuable root was not perhaps ſooner known in this part of the country; his Lordſhip's example was but little followed,

* Wheat is ſown in September, October, November, ſome even in January and February; which laſt is ſometimes found to anſwer well: It is reaped commonly in Auguſt and September. Peaſe and beans are ſown in February, March, and beginning of April; barley generally in May: And reaped in Auguſt, September, or ſometimes beginning of October.

ed, if at all, till within theſe 25 years; the practice is now become very general, to the great benefit of the country.—When the turnip appears above ground, it is often much hurt from a cauſe that ſeems not to be well underſtood, ſome imputing it to a fly that eats the tender leaves; an ingenious gentleman in this neighbourhood, who has beſtowed much attention on this ſubject, imputes it to froſt, and is confident the turnip ſuffers nothing from the fly. The *Ruta baga* or Swediſh turnip, was introduced into this pariſh about 4 years ago. Its leaves reſemble the rib kail plants, the root reſembles field turnip, not ſo large in general, but heavier in proportion to its ſize, and of much firmer texture. It is believed, that as great weight of this root may be raiſed on an acre, as of field turnip; this plant ſeems to be gaining ground here; it is proof againſt the moſt intenſe froſt; the ſeaſon for ſowing it is from the 1ſt to the 20th May; it may either be tranſplanted as cabbage, or managed as field turnip. Potatoes were ſcarcely known in this country 40 years ago; they now afford the poor half their ſuſtenance, and generally appear at the tables of the rich; they are well known to be very proper food for horſes and other animals, and are ſometimes diſtilled into whiſky. Peaſe and beans are much uſed, and generally ſown in drills; they are hoed with the plough, and afterwards with hand hoes, which renders them meliorating crops. The number of horſes in the pariſh is about 239; of cattle, 624; of aſſes, 22; of wheel-carriages, 3. The plough generally uſed is that of Small's conſtruction, with a broad ſock and mold board of Carron metal. Twenty or 30 years ago, the almoſt univerſal practice of the farmers of this pariſh was, to yoke 2 horſes and 4 oxen in a plough; now, ploughs are generally drawn by 2 horſes, one ploughman managing them; ſcarcely are any oxen ſeen in a plough.—There are between 70 and 80 ploughs, and about the ſame number of

carts; about 40 years ago, few carts were uſed in this country; coals, victual and other articles, were at that period, and perhaps later, carried on horſeback; corn, hay, manure, &c. were driven with wains, drawn by 2 horſes and 2 oxen. The pariſh contains 63½ ploughgates, conſiſting of between 40 and 50 acres each, ſo that the whole pariſh may be computed at upwards of 3000 acres arable, beſides 280 acres of links or ſandy plains, the haunts of rabbits, a ſpecies of animals, which, though deſtructive to corn, bring no ſmall profit to the proprietors; they are extremely prolific, being ſaid to have young 5 or 6 times in the year, 3 or 4 of the firſt litter, 5, 6, or 7, of the following ones. Property in land has changed much in this pariſh of late years. The value of land is rapidly increaſing; farms let for 19 or more years, are generally raiſed one third, and the rents of ſome are doubled within theſe few years; a farm of good land unincloſed, fit for the higheſt culture, is let from 40s. to 50s. a-acre; the beſt paſture, incloſures, &c. from L. 2 to L. 3 the acre. Thirty or 40 years ago, there was ſcarce a large farm in this country that had not a flock of ſheep; now there are very few ſheep in the country, excepting thoſe in gentlemens incloſures, for family uſe; ſince ſummer fallow, for the culture of wheat, and the clover and turnip ſyſtem for feeding cattle, were introduced, the farmers diſcontinued keeping flocks of ſheep *. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 9509 Scots.—The real rent is increaſed

* Servants wages are gradually increaſing in this pariſh. The wages of a common labourer 6 or 7 years ago, were from 7 d. to 10 d. a-day; now they are from 10 d. to 15 d. The wages of men-ſervants hired for the year at the above period, were from L. 4 to L. 5; now they are from L. 6 to L. 8, and their victuals. The wages of maid-ſervants at the ſame period, were from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2 Sterling, for the year; now they are in general from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. The wages of wrights or carpenters a-day, are 1 s. 6 d. in ſummer, and 1 s. 3 d. in winter. Of maſons the ſame.

increaſed in proportion to that of other pariſhes in the neighbourhood. The air is wholeſome in general, though damp in ſome places; the people live to a good age; there are many who live beyond 80, and ſome beyond 90 years. There is a poor woman in this pariſh, who avers, that ſhe is more than 100 years old. This, however, is not authenticated by our records.

Population.—At the time of Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was 2131; the number of the inhabitants at preſent is about 2013*. There are 4 villages or ſmall towns. Colinſburgh contains about 357 inhabitants; Earlſferry, about 350; Kilconquhar, about 258; Barnyards, about 198; the country part of the pariſh, about 850. There are 2 clergymen, one of the Eſtabliſhed Church, the other of the Relief Congregation. There are between 600 and 700 ſectaries, adhering chiefly to the Preſbytery of Relief, with ſome Burgher-ſeceders and Independents; few of the Epiſcopal profeſſion, and no Roman Catholics. There are 13 proprietors of land, 5 reſiding, and 8 non-reſident; 1 writer, 11 merchants, 20 farmers above L 50 rent, 10 innkeepers and brewers, 8 ſmiths, 89 weavers, 23 tailors, 18 maſons, 21 ſailors, 3 butchers, 12 gardeners, 46 ſhoemakers, 8 bakers including apprentices, 4 flax-dreſſers, 2 coopers, 5 millers, 2 tanners, with 1 clerk, and a currier, 6 ſaddlers, who are employed occaſionally in ſhoemaking. The apprentices and journeymen are included in the numbers of the reſpective trades.

Stipend,

*Years.	Baptiſms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1788	52	20	30
1789	52	20	35
1790	59	20	26
1791	46	16	64

Stipend, School, Poor.—The ſtipend is 10 chalders 3 firlots 3 pecks and 2 lippies barley, and L. 17 : 13 : 9⅓ Sterling, with a glebe ſaid to be more than 7 acres.—There is one eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſter with 200 merks of ſalary, a good ſchool-houſe, dwelling-houſe, garden, and a ſmall croft of land. The ſcholars are commonly between 30 and 40 in number; 4 of whom are at preſent learning Latin. Two and ſometimes 3 teachers are employed by the inhabitants of diſtant parts of this extenſive pariſh.—The number of poor at preſent is 26.—They receive a monthly allowance, and ſometimes oftener, from our public funds, according to their reſpective neceſſities. For theſe purpoſes and accidental caſes that occur, our weekly collections, and the liberal aid of the heritors, with the intereſt of our ſtock, are generally ſufficient, without affecting the principal. There are but 3 travelling poor in the pariſh.

Annual income in 1790,	-	L. 45	2 5¾
——————— 1791,	-	34	2 4
——————— 1792,	-	58	17 5¾
Annual expenditure in 1790,	-	L. 31	13 7
——————— 1791,	-	32	8 0½
——————— 1792,	-	51	13 10

The ſmall income in 1791 was owing to the vacancy in the year.

Royal Borough.—There is one Royal borough, Earl's Ferry*. From a copy of a charter in the poſſeſſion of the magiſtrates, renewed in the year 1589 by King James, it

* There is a tradition, that on account of the generous and obliging attentions of the inhabitants of this town to the Earl of Fife, when he lay concealed in a cave in their neighbourhood, and particularly for ferrying

it appears, its erection into a royal borough, is of very ancient date. The original charter is loſt, having been deſtroyed by a fire of the borough of Edinburgh, as ſpecified in the copy above mentioned. In this borough there are 3 magiſtrates, 15 councillors and a treaſurer, the oldeſt magiſtrate acting as provoſt. The election is annual and by poll. They forfeited their right of voting in the election of members of Parliament, in common with ſome other towns in this country, through their inability to pay their proportion of the ſums neceſſary for defraying the expenſes of a commiſſioner in Parliament ſome centuries ago; when 'the anxiety of

rying him over the frith, at the hazard of their lives and liberties, while he was eſcaping from the cruelty of Macbeth, the Earl obtained from King Malcolm the following privilege in their favour, *viz.* That the perſons of all who paſs the frith from Earl's Ferry in a veſſel belonging to the town, were declared inviolable, or ſafe from their purſuers, till they were half ſea over. This, it would appear, is the origin of the name of Earl's Ferry. There is one ſloop, and a few ſmall fiſhing-boats, belonging to Earl's Ferry. Formerly there were 18 fiſhermen; but ſince the year 1766, when 7 of them were loſt in a ſtorm in one boat, only a very few are employed in fiſhing occaſionally.—There is in our records a copy of the inſcription on Macduff's croſs, written in a language unknown in this part of the country, as follows:

Maldraradrum dragos, maleria largia largos,
Spalando ſpados, ſive nig fig gnippite gnaros,
Lauria lauriſcos lauringen, lauria luſcos,
Et Columburtos et ſic tibi curcia curtos
Exitus et baradrum, ſive lim, ſive lam, ſive labrum;
Propter magidrum et hoc oblatum,
Ampi ſmileridum, ſuper limpide, lampide, labrum.

Part of the above inſcription has been tranſlated as follows:

'I King Malcolm Kenmore, grant to thee Macduff Earl of Fife, free liberty to puniſh all traytors that deſert, and troublers of the peace, and free indemnity to thy own kin; thou paying to the King nine cows and a heifer.'

of our anceſtors to obtain an exemption, was almoſt equal to the eagerneſs with which our contemporaries ſolicit admiſſion into Parliament *.'

Rocks, Caves and Lakes—On the weſt of the Earl's Ferry is Kincraig-rock, remarkable for caves, which, though ſome of them reſemble the works of art, are probably excavations cauſed by the influx of the ſea. In one of them, Macduff's cave, are ſome remains of a wall, which tradition ſays, was built by Macduff, Earl of Fife, to defend him from Macbeth, who, having murdered his couſin King Duncan, aſcended the throne of Scotland, and treated his ſubjects with the cruelty of a tyrant. Macduff afterward fled into England, and encouraged Malcolm, ſon to the late king, to return to Scotland and recover the throne of his anceſtors.—Macduff's cave penetrates into the rock about 200 feet, and the roof, being the ſummit of the rock, is ſuppoſed to be at leaſt 160 feet high, forming a grand alcove, projecting over the cave and the ſea at full tide.—The ſtone of this rock is of excellent quality, ſuſceptible of fine poliſh, reſembling granite, or perhaps a ſpecies of it. Mr Gourlay, the late proprietor, had high offers made him, for liberty to quarry in it ſome years ago, when the ſtreets of London were paving; but apprehenſive of the fall of ſome parts of the rock, and the loſs of ſome of the rich ſoil behind, which he ſuſpected might be the conſequence, he declined the offers. Coal is found in this rock too, which cannot be worked, as the ſea comes ſo cloſe upon it. There is a ſpecies of ſtone in this rock, which is ſuppoſed to be marble of the baſaltic kind; a ſpecimen of which is to be ſeen in Mrs Gourlay of Kincraig's cuſtody; its colour is white, variegated with blue, and it is finely poliſhed. There is a beautiful piece of water on the ſouth of the village of Kilconquhar,

* Dr ROBERTSON's Hiſtory of Scotland.

Kilconquhar, commonly called Kilconquhar Loch, almoſt ½ of a mile in length, and about ¼ of a mile in breadth. This loch was originally called Redmire, from which much fuel was got, as peat and turf. It had a drain weſtward to the ſea. There is a tradition here, that in the year 1624 or 1625, the drain was filled up with ſand driven by a violent guſt of wind from the ſea, and that the water, thus ſtopped in its courſe, became a lake. Between 60 and 70 ſwans uſed greatly to enliven and adorn this loch; but they deſerted it about 20 years ago. There are 9 at preſent. In the loch are ſeveral ſmall iſlands planted with ſhrubs, formed for the uſe of the ſwans: they hatch in the month of May*.

Country Seats.—There is a variety of beautiful country ſeats in this pariſh, among which Balcarras is conſpicous, ſituated on an eminence, with a gentle declivity to the ſouth,

* A ſpecies of birds called bald coots, are alſo on the loch in great numbers, reſembling crows, but have longer legs; they make their neſts on the flags, and hatch in May; and feed upon vermin in the mud. They left the loch, it is reported, about 40 years ago, and did not return again for ten years. Here are wild ducks; herald ducks, as they are called here, (perhaps heron ducks), ſmaller than wild ducks, with a ſhorter wing, red head, and gray variegated feathers; a ſpecies of duck called widgeon, ſomewhat leſs than the herald duck; and teals, ſmaller than theſe ducks. Theſe ducks appear on the loch in great abundance in ſummer, but leave it in winter. In the evening, they fly off in a body to the ſea, as is ſuppoſed, and return through the night. The only fiſhes in the loch are pikes and eels; of the former ſome weigh 14 lb. ſome 16 lb. and are, ſome 36, ſome 38 inches long. There is a drain in the loch to the ſouth, where the eels are taken in an ark; they go to the ſea in autumn. Perches have been ſeen in the loch, but they are deſtroyed, it is thought, by the pikes.—The gray plover and fieldfare come hither in October, and leave us the beginning of March; the green plover, as it were by concert, comes to us in March, and leaves us in October. The lark, blackbird, thruſh, with birds of almoſt every note and every feather, haunt a pleaſant wood of Sir John Anſtruther's on the ſouth of Kilconquhar loch, where there are charming walks, adorned with flowers and ſhrubs, and lovely bowers.

ſouth, commanding a noble view of the coaſt, and of the frith of Forth; a pleaſant and grand object, beautifully winding round the coaſt, almoſt in a ſemicircular direction, often agreeably diverſified with ſhips of various burdens, and ſometimes with fleets; North Berwick law, the Baſs, and the iſland of May, are alſo pleaſing and grand objects from this charming villa, appearing as ſo many floating iſlands and caſtles in the ſea. Balcarras commands an extenſive proſpect on the ſouth of the frith likewiſe, comprehending Edinburgh, with a great part of the counties of Lothian, Haddington, Berwick, &c. There is a beautiful craig on the Eaſt of Balcarras-Houſe, riſing in the midſt of rich fields, from which the objects above mentioned are ſeen to great advantage. Here alſo is an excellent quarry for building. On the eaſt of the craig is a delightful den, about an Engliſh mile in length, enlivened by a ſtream of water paſſing through the middle, whoſe riſing banks are adorned with thriving trees of various kinds. The feathered tribes ſeem proud of pouring forth their various melody in this pleaſant retreat, not inferior perhaps to the Tempe of ancient Theſſaly. Balcarras is no leſs fertile than beautiful, the fields are properly divided and incloſed, and in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation. The late Earl of Balcarras, a nobleman diſtinguiſhed by the benevolence of his heart, the liberality of his ſentiments, and the uncommon extent of his knowledge, particularly in hiſtory and agriculture, was among the firſt that brought farming to any degree of perfection in this country.

Hic, ——— Ridet inter omnes
Angulus terræ.

It would exceed the bounds proper for an account of this kind to dwell on the beautiful ſituation, and elegant manſion-houſes of Kilconquhar, Newton, Lathallan, Kincraig,

craig and Grange; the caſtle of Rires merits particular notice, ſituated on a high eminence, commanding a moſt extenſive view, and intended, it would appear, for a place of defence; it is ſurrounded by a ditch 70 fe t wide, whoſe depth cannot now be aſcertained with accuracy, by reaſon of the alterations time has made on the ground: No planting remains about it, excepting one remarkable tree, called 'the Bicker tree,' meaſuring 14 feet round, and its branches extending about 75 feet; that part of the tree where the great branches ſeparate from the trunk, affords a very agreeable ſeat, and ſhade in ſummer; and tradition ſays, that one of the hoſpitable proprietors, after liberally entertaining his gueſts in the caſtle, was wont to conduct them to this tree, and give them an additional bicker there: In thoſe days, it was uſual with people of rank, to drink out of wooden cups or bickers tipped with ſilver.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are 4 dumb people in this pariſh. One became dumb after he was 4 years of age, in conſequence of a ſtroke on the head: He enjoys the faculty of hearing in perfection, and is abundantly intelligent and active. Another articulates a little, and is quite deaf, occaſioned by a fever; two of one family have been both deaf and dumb from their birth: All the 4 are abundantly ſenſible and active, and attend public worſhip regularly.—The common people in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, pronounce the diphthong *oi* with a long and broad accent, giving it the ſound of *ow*, for inſtance, they make no diſtinction of ſound, between *boil* and *bowl*. They uſe the Scots dialect; ſome names of places are derived from Gaelic, as *Balcarres*, 'the town of ſheep,' *Kincraig* 'the 'end of a rock,' &c.

Advantages and Diſadvantages, &c.—There is a conſiderable number of coal fields in this pariſh, which have, in great meaſure, ſerved the adjacent country for ſome centuries paſt, and afford coal of various kinds, as hard, ſplent, parret, and ſoft, known here by the name of cherry; and of a mixed nature, in many places; all generally good of their kinds: The ſtrata are ſubject to many interruptions, as is the caſe with moſt of the coal in the inland parts of Fife, being often broken off, or thrown into different directions, by hitches as they are called, which are of very diff rent thickneſſes, compoſed variouſly of heterogeneous materials; the coal ſtrata themſelves alſo differing in thickneſs, quality, ſtricking, and declivity; ſeldom found to go much deeper than 30 fathoms from the ſurface; whereas the coal ſtrata, cloſe by the ſea, both here, and in many other parts of our iſland, are ſaid to run for miles, almoſt in the ſame direction, and of the ſame dimenſions. The coal fields in this pariſh that have been work ed are Balcarres coal.—Kilbrackmont coal, the property of Miſs Scott of Scotſtarvet.—South Falfield coal, the property of Mr Bethune of Blebo. The above mentioned coals are not worked at preſent, but might afford more coal, were engines erected, or mines driven deeper than formerly to carry off the water.—Reres coal, the property of Mr Bayne of Reres, worked by a mine, employs 6 men, a grieve, and overſman. The price of a cart load, 75 ſtone weight, is 2 s. 6 d.—Lathallan coal, the property of Major Lumſdaine of Lathallan, worked by a mine, affords both hard and ſoft coal, frequently of good quality; employs at preſent 8 colliers, 2 windlace-men, and a ſuperintendent. The price of a cart load 75 ſtone weight, is 2 s. 2 d.—Largo-Ward coal, the property of James Calderwood Durham, Eſq; of Largo, conſiſts of many ſhort ſtrata, lying in tranſverſe directions,

worked

worked by a mine of 3540 yards upwards of 2 miles long, produces hard and ſoft coal, generally of good quality, employs at preſent 37 people for the various purpoſes, with 2 grieves, and one overſman.—North Falfield coal, the property of the above deſigned Mr Durham, worked by a ſteam engine, erected in 1784, which drains two diſtinct coal fields, each conſiſting of 2 ſtrata, one of a mixed nature, about 5 feet thick, the other fine parret, in great requeſt for the clear light it affords, and other properties: of theſe ſtrata the one is 9 feet thick for 60 yards, then gradually diminiſhing for about 60 yards, till it comes to 5 feet thick, where ſplent becomes perceptible, united to the parret on the pavement, the ſplent increaſing in an uniform progreſſive manner, and the parret diminiſhing in the ſame proportion, till its thickneſs becomes 4 feet, where the coal is cut off by a hitch of conſiderable thickneſs, and leaves the pariſh. The other ſtratum is excellent parret, in ſome places 9 feet thick, but not uniform; the coal is always beſt where it is thickeſt This colliery employs ſeldom leſs than 40, ſometimes more than 50 men, with one as grieve and accountant, and another as engineer and overſman.—Conſumption of one year, at an average for 7 years paſt, is as follows:

Coals at 18 ſtone the load of the various kinds,

Loads, - 47,572

Yearly returns, - - L. 1553: 17: 11½.

The pits by which the greater part of the coal is put out, are 54 or 56 yards deep. This muſt have been a colliery for a conſiderable time, as an account is to be ſeen in Largo houſe of ſo many loads of parret coal, driven yearly from Falfield to Falkland, a diſtance not leſs than 10 miles, for the uſe of King James VI. his own chamber. The

colliers

colliers of this pariſh are tolerably regular and induſtrious.

Fiſh.—Cod, ſkate, ling, turbot, and ſhell-fiſh of various kinds are in great plenty on the coaſt in all the ſeaſons. Beſides the great quantities ſold here, many are ſent to the Edinburgh market; haddocks, for which our coaſt is famous, have deſerted us for ſome years paſt. Whales and grampuſes are ſometimes ſeen here. The length of coaſt waſhed by the ſea, belonging to this pariſh, is about 2 miles, all rock and ſand. The farmers next the coaſt have acceſs to ſea-ware, which is excellent manure for raiſing barley, and to ſome kelp. The ſcarcity of growing timber for farming utenſils, is a diſadvantage to the farmers.

Manners.—The gentlemen who reſide on their eſtates, contribute not a little to the good order and happineſs of their tenants, and the other inhabitants of the pariſh; being affable, humane, and hoſpitable to all around them, they ſecure the affection, eſteem, and attachment of their dependents, and by employing a variety of tradeſmen and labourers in the field, they are benefactors to many. They are abundantly active, and public ſpirited likewiſe with reſpect to the improvement of roads. The farmers are intelligent ſenſible men in general, who, by means of their knowledge and induſtry, live comfortably, and ſeveral of them genteelly, notwithſtanding the high rents. The manufacturers and tradeſmen are generally induſtrious and regular. The people of this pariſh are much improved in point of ſobriety; they are ſeldom ſeen in clubs in public houſes, and inſtances of drunkenneſs are very rare; 30 or 40 years ago, public houſes were much frequented here by people of all ranks; in theſe days they drank much brandy, and other ſpiritous liquors,

liquors, which were not only deſtructive to health, but proved fertile cauſes of intoxication and quarrels; now, not only gentlemen and farmers, but people of almoſt every deſcription, entertain their friends and acquaintances in their own houſes, where they drink milder and leſs intoxicating liquors, and in greater moderation; the ſociety of the female ſex, ſecuring decency, politeneſs, and agreeable conviviality.—The tradeſmen of the village of Kilconquhar make a fine apperance on his Majeſty's birth-day; ſo many handſome, genteel, well dreſſed young men, can hardly be muſtered in any other place of equal extent and population in the country: Perfect order, decorum, and loyalty, are manifeſt in every expreſſion, motion and countenance, during the whole proceſſion and feſtivity.—Notwithſtanding the confuſions and diſorders we hear of in other parts of the country, it muſt afford high pleaſure to all lovers of order and of their country, to obſerve the inhabitants of this pariſh in general, ſenſible of the unparalleled happineſs we enjoy as members of a community, under the protection of the wiſe laws of our moſt excellent conſtitution, and the mild adminiſtration of our moſt gracious Sovereign, dwelling in peace and ſafety, in full and ſecure poſſeſſion of liberty and property, with none to make us afraid; while we continue, (according to the injunction of the wiſeſt of men, under the direction of Divine inſpiration) to fear God, to honour the King, and not to meddle with them that are given to change.

NOTE.

Diſeaſes.——1. Febrile Diſeaſes.—Inflammation of the throat and breaſt, rheumatiſm, croup, eryſipelas, ſpitting of blood, conſumption of the lungs, catarrh, very common and frequent. Inflammation of the brain, bowels, liver and kidneys, not frequent. Gout and dyſentery, very uncommon. Intermittent fever, very frequent formerly in the village of Kilconquhar.

Kilconquhar. Continued fever, frequently endemic. Natural ſmall-pox and meaſles, epidemic from time to time. Inoculated ſmall-pox, few inſtances.——2. Nervous Diſeaſes.—Apoplexy, epilepſy, cholera morbus, not frequent. Palſy, fainting, not unfrequent. Locked jaw, diabetes canine madneſs, no inſtance for 20 years paſt. Hooping cough, epidemic from time to time. Diarrhœa, very frequent. Inſanity, one inſtance at preſent.——3. Cachectical Diſeaſes.—General dropſy, dropſy of the belly, ſcrofula, very frequent. Tympany, jaundice, not unfrequent. Dropſy of the brain and breaſt, rickets, uncommon. Atrophy, lues venerea, ſcurvy, no inſtances.——4. Local Diſeaſes.—Iliac paſſion, ſuppreſſion of urine, not frequent. Hernia, abortion, not uncommon. Flooding, frequent. Gangrene, rare. Cancer, very rare. Aneuriſm, no inſtance.——5. Anomalous Diſeaſes.—Caſualties, drunkenneſs, few inſtances. Dentition, frequent. Gravel and ſtone, pretty frequent. Worms, very common.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF MUCKART,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW GIBSON.

Name, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.

MUCKART, was anciently written *Mucard*, and is ſaid to be compounded of two Gaelic words, *muc* and *Ard*, the firſt ſignifying "a wild boar," the laſt "high," or a height. It is probable, that it derives its name in conſequence of that part of the Ochil hills which is ſituated in the pariſh, having been formerly infeſted by the wild boar, an animal which for this century paſt has been unknown in Scotland. The pariſh is of a triangular form. It is about 5 miles in length, from E. to W. and between 2 and 3 in breadth, from N. to S. containing about 4500 acres of land, 3000 of which are arable, and 1500 hill ground, fit only for paſture. The ſoil is moſtly of a light and gravelliſh nature, and a ſmall part of clay. The weſt part of the pariſh, adjoining to Dollar, the loweſt lying of which is upwards

of

of 60 feet above the level of the ſea, produces very good oats, barley, and peaſe. The middle and eaſt part, which is between 500 and 600 feet above the level of the ſea, produces the ſame kinds of grain, but of a much inferior quality. There have been of late ſeveral trials made of ſowing wheat in the pariſh, which have ſucceeded indifferently well in the weſt part of it; but in the eaſt part, the ground is too high, light and ſilly for it. Almoſt the whole ſoil, being ſandy and dry, is well adopted for the culture of potatoes and turnip, though hitherto few of the laſt have been in uſe to be ſown. They now begin to be ſomewhat more frequently raiſed than formerly. The climate, in general, is ſharp and cold, owing to the highneſs of the ſituation; but it is more mild and temperate in the weſt part of the pariſh, where the ground lies low, than in the eaſt part of it, where it is high. The difference is perceptible at all ſeaſons of the year, but eſpecially in winter, in times of froſt and ſnow.—As the pariſh lies along the foot of the Ochils, it is frequently covered with fogs and miſts, owing to its vicinity to theſe hills; and to the ſame cauſe, it is perhaps more ſubject to rains, than places at a greater diſtance from the hills. The inhabitants, however, are remarkably healthy, and a conſiderable proportion of them live to an advanced age. There is at preſent one woman, aged 88; and there were lately living in one houſe, at the ſame time, a huſband, his wife, and his ſiſter, all above 84. No local diſtempers are prevalent. Rheumatiſm ſeems to be more common than any other.

Hills, River, &c.—Beſides the Blairhill and Lawhill, there is a part of the ridge of the Ochils in the pariſh. The one at the back of the kirk called Sea male, is about 1350 feet above the level of the ſea; but it does not ſeem to be of ſo great a height, owing to its ariſing from an elevated,

vated baſe. Theſe hills are beautiful and green, and are excellent paſture for ſheep. The tops of them are moſtly covered with bent, and ſome of them with heath. The river Dovan runs S. E. along the N. E. part of the pariſh to the Crook, where it turns round a ſmall point of land, changes its courſe from E. to W. and runs W. along the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, interſecting it near the weſt end, in one place, and cutting off to the ſouth ſide one farm or plough of land. The Dovan abounds with burn trout of an excellent flavour, of a darkiſh colour, with red ſpots; and there is alſo ſalmon that come from the Forth, as far up as the Cauldron lin, but they have not been able to get above it. There is no town, and only one ſmall village in the pariſh.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the numbers then were 535.—There are at preſent 140 families and 526 perſons in the pariſh.—Of theſe there are

Under 10 years of age,	128	Of Burgher Seceders,	10
Between 10 and 20,	119	Of Cameronians,	3
—— 20 and 50,	173	Male ſervants, -	38
—— 50 and 70,	89	Female ſervants,	33
—— 70 and 100,	17	Wrights, -	6
Males, - -	239	Maſons, - -	6
Females, -	287	Blackſmiths, -	4
Married perſons,	192	Weavers, - -	23
Widowers, -	6	Tailors, - -	5
Widows, -	17	Shoemakers, -	6
Bachelors who keep houſe,	4	Fleſher, - -	1
Of the Eſtabliſhed Church, -	264	Surgeon, - -	1
Of Antiburgher Seceders, - -	249	Antiburgher miniſter,	1
		Miniſter of the Eſtabliſhed Church,	1

Table of the births and marriages ſince the 1786, and of the deaths in the 1791 and 1792.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1787,	18	0	6
1788,	15	0	9
1789,	15	0	4
1790,	14	0	5
1791,	13	7	4
1792,	14	8	3

Agriculture, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2161 : 13 : 4 Scots.—The real rent was lately eſtimated in a rental given in to the Court of Teinds, in a proceſs of augmentation of ſtipend, at L. 1089 Sterling. There are 38 proprietors of land, 21 of whom reſide. The greateſt number of theſe have from L. 5 to L. 50 Sterling a-year; a few have from L. 50 to L. 80; and only two are worth above L. 100. Of theſe, the one was eſtimated in the rental before mentioned at L. 115, and the other at L. 120 a-year. The lands belonging to the non-reſiding heritors are farmed moſtly by tenants, but the greateſt part of the reſiding heritors occupy their own lands, which they labour chiefly themſelves, with the aſſiſtance of their children, a few of them having, beſides what they poſſeſs themſelves, ſome ſmall pendicles let to tenants. The ground that is incloſed is commonly let yearly by public roup ſome time in the month of April, for that ſeaſon, in ſeparate incloſures, for the purpoſe of grazing; which generally brings a better rent to the proprietor than could be made by tillage. A conſiderable part of the lands in the pariſh is incloſed, but the greateſt part is ſtill open, and in a natural ſtate. Some of the proprietors are not ſufficiently ſenſible of the advantages of incloſing, and do not ſeem to aſpire

at

at any thing farther than to trade in the footſteps of their predeceſſors; if they can attain this, their ambition carries them no higher. Beſides, though they had a proper ſenſe of the advantages of incloſing, the ſmallneſs of the poſſeſſions of many of them, and their being in the cuſtom of maintaining families upon them, however ſmall, renders it difficult for them to ſpare money for this uſeful purpoſe. To this may be added, that the whole lands in the pariſh are thirled to Muckart mill, and liable to pay a heavy multure. All which may be conſidered as hindrances to improvements in agriculture. The number of horſes, black cattle, and ſheep, cannot be aſcertained with preciſion. As the incloſed farms are annually let for the purpoſe of grazing, the numbers are conſtantly varying; but it is computed, that there are uſually about 140 horſes, 620 black cattle, and 320 ſheep in the pariſh. The reaſon why there are ſo few ſheep, is, that a great part of the hill ground is incloſed with ſtone fences that are ſufficient for black cattle, but not for ſheep, and therefore black cattle are moſtly paſtured on the hills.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The archbiſhop of St Andrew's was originally patron of the pariſh, and titular of the tithes. The King is now patron. The ſtipend is L. 44 : 8 : $0\frac{10}{12}$ Sterling, with a manſe and a glebe of about 10 acres. A proceſs of augmentation is now depending. Beſides the Eſtabliſhed Church, there is an Antiburgher meeting-houſe. There is one eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſter, who has L. 100 Scots of ſalary, and about L. 16 Sterling of intereſt of money, mortified by different perſons for the behoof of the ſchoolmaſter. Beſides this, he has a right to a ſchool, ſchool-houſe, and garden, by another mortification, which the heritors are obliged to keep in repair, otherwiſe they forfeit the benefit of it. The whole, with the profits of

the

the ſchool and other emoluments, may be eſtimated about L. 36 Sterling. The average of the ſcholars is about 36.—As there are few opulent, ſo there are not many poor in the pariſh, who are under the neceſſity of living upon charity. They do not, at an average, exceed 6, and the intereſt of the funds mortified for the behoof of the poor, with the collections at the church door, are ſufficient to maintain them. Theſe added together, make about L. 18 Sterling a-year *.

Natural Curioſities.—The Rumbling Bridge is built in a hollow over the river Dovan, between the pariſhes of Muckart and Foſſaway. It conſiſts of one arch of 22 feet in ſpan and 12 in breadth. At this place there was originally a bridge of wood. The preſent ſtone one was built about the year 1713, by one William Gray, a native of the pariſh of Saline. It is over a narrow chaſm that ſeems to have been worn through the rock by the river, about 86 feet deep. To look over the bridge down to the river is awful. In ſome places the waters are ſcarcely viſible, when there is no flood in them, having a concealed courſe below the rocks, through which they have worn a paſſage. In others, they are ſeen guſhing among the ſtones with great rapidity. The rocks on the ſides in many places project over one another. At both ends of the bridge, and at various parts on the face of the rocks, are trees and buſhes, where daws and hawks have their neſts, and from which they are often flying forth. The whole furniſhes a moſt romantic

* *Public houſes.*—There are 3 public houſes, whoſe employment ariſes chiefly from ſtranger travellers, and from the drivers of coals from Blairngone and Dollar to Strathern. As the greateſt part of their buſineſs, flows from perſons of the above deſcriptions ſtopping to refreſh themſelves and their horſes, and not from the inhabitants of the place, they have not much influence upon the morals of the people.

mantic ſcene.—A little higher up is the De'il's Mill, a name taken from the ſimilarity there is between the place and a grinding mill. Here the river, after running by a quick deſcent, between rocks in a narrow courſe for ſome time comes into a kind of baſon formed in the rock; out of which the water falls about 14 or 15 feet among the ſtones, making a dreadful noiſe, reſembling the noiſe of the happer and clap of a mill. There are ſeveral conjectures about what is the cauſe of the clap that is heard. Some think it is occaſioned by the river's falling on a large ſtone ſuſpended between the rocks, and ſtriking againſt them by means of the force of the waters; others, that it is owing to the air's being carried down by the falling of the water into a vacuity below the rocks, and cauſing a clap, by regularly burſting out as it is condenſed.—The Cauldron Linn, which is about a mile below the Rumbling Bridge, exhibits a ſtill more romantic ſcene. At a diſtance is heard the noiſe of the falls of water, and of the river running by a quick deſcent among the ſtones with great rapidity, in a confined courſe, through which it has to force its paſſage. The noiſe increaſes as you come nearer to the place, which you do not ſee till you are upon it. The firſt thing that ſtrikes the eye, are the high rocks on the ſides of the river, through which it appears to have worn its way. Theſe rocks are ſome of them perpendicular, and others project over the river and almoſt meet. They are on both ſides nearly of an equal height, and on a level; but as there are two caſcades, they are much higher from the ſurface of the water below the ſecond caſcade, and even above it, than they are from the ſurface of the water above the firſt. At the firſt caſcade, the river, after a ſhort fall, lights on rock hollowed in a curious wonderful manner, into deep cavities of different forms and ſizes; moſt of which are of a cylindric form, open on one ſide,

or

or of a circular form like cauldrons. One of theſe is much larger than the reſt, over which the rock on the ſouth ſide of the river is a little projected. In this cavity or cauldron, the water ſeems as if it were always boiling round, having a thick brown or yellow ſcum on the top, owing to its great agitation, bearing a ſtriking reſemblance to the working of malt liquor in a large brewing veſſel. From this the name of Cauldron Linn is taken. A little farther down is the ſecond and great caſcade, where the river hath worn its way through the rock, and when there is no flood in the water, it runs below a beautiful arch of ſolid rock; but this arch muſt in time be carried away by the violence of the current, or be undermined by the wearing of the water. The height of this fall to the ſurface of the water, where it drops, is about 44 feet; and the height from the top of the fall to the top of the rocks is about 44 feet; ſo that the whole height of the rocks from the top to the ſurface of the water below the fall, is about 88 feet. Below this caſcade the rocks widen conſiderably, and in the clifts on the face of them, the daws and hawks build their neſts. Beneath the rocks there is a ſteep brae on both ſides, covered with trees and buſhes, through which there is a foot-path to the edge of the river, from which there is an excellent view of the great caſcade.

Coal and Lime.—There are both coal and lime in different parts of the pariſh; but for ſome time paſt, neither of theſe hath been wrought to great extent. The whole coal in the pariſh belongs to the Duke of Argyle, who, as ſuperior, has a privilege of working coal in any part of the feuars lands, upon his paying ſurface damages. This privilege, and alſo the lime rock in the lands of Muckart-mill, belonging to his Grace, are let to a Company, who are only working the lime at preſent, for which they have much greater demands than they are able to anſwer. The

inhabitants

inhabitants are ſupplied with coal from the coal pits in the neighbourhood at Blairngone and Dollar.

Roads and Bridges.—Two roads run through the pariſh; the one from Kinroſs to Stirling; the other from Queen's Ferry to Strathern, by Blairngone; and there are, beſides the Rumbling Bridge formerly mentioned, other three bridges over the Dovan, between the pariſhes of Muckart and Foſſaway; one on the road near the old manſe of Foſſaway; one on the road from Kinroſs to Stirling; and one on the road from Queen's Ferry to Strathern, a little north from Blairngone. As this laſt is a very public road, it is of great importance that it be made as eaſy for travellers and carriages as poſſible. Accordingly, an act of Parliament hath lately been obtained for making it a turnpike road, that it may be put and kept in proper repair, which, when done, muſt be of great advantage to the public.

NUM-

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF TONGLAND,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY, PRESBYTERY OF KIRCUDBRIGHT).

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM ROBB.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, and Climate.

IN ancient writings, the name of this parish is spelled *Tungland*, and in modern, *Tongueland* and *Tongland*. I know of no derivation from which it hath received this name. Probably it may have got the appellation from its external shape, resembling a human tongue, as it lies bounded by the river Dee and the water of Tarff; but this derivation is given as a probable conjecture only. It is from N. to S. between 7 or 8 miles long, and in breadth from 3 to 4 miles from E. to W. In the south end of the parish it is only about 2 miles, or 1½ miles in breadth. The surface, in the south end of the parish, consists of a long ridge of high ground, running from S. to N. with a gradual declivity to the river Dee on the E. and the water of Tarff on the W.

It

In the north end it is rocky and mooriſh, interſperſed with riſing ground, ſmall hills, moſs, and valley land, and ſpots of natural meadow ground. In the weſt ſide of the pariſh, and upon each ſide of the water of Tarff, there is a conſiderable quantity of fine natural meadow ground, which yields large crops of hay, but in wet ſeaſons is much damaged by floods. The ſoil of the pariſh is good in general, and conſiſts of a conſiderable variety. In the ſouth end of the pariſh it conſiſts of a fine red mould, upon a rocky and tilly bottom, but of a fertile nature, and agrees remarkably well with gentle rains in ſummer. In the middle of the pariſh, in ſome places, it is a mixture of ſand upon a pebbly bottom, which agrees ill with dry ſeaſons. In the north end it conſiſts of moſſy ſoil, upon a ſtony bottom, and is naturally barren, and more ſuited for paſture than agriculture. There are, however, a number of arable ſpots interſperſed, which yield luxuriant crops, when manured with lime. The mooriſh ſoil, covered with heath and bentiſh graſs, affords good paſture for ſheep and black cattle. The ſouth end, and middle of the pariſh, in general, is of a fertile ſoil, and excellently ſuited either for the purpoſes of agriculture, or breeding and rearing of black cattle and ſheep. In many parts of the north end, the ſoil is mooriſh and unfruitful, being interſperſed with rocky ground.—The air is pure, dry, and very wholeſome. There are no ſtagnating lakes, and little low or marſhy ground. The rivers produce a conſtant and free circulation of air. The inhabitants are healthful, and ſubject to no local diſeaſes peculiar to the place. The inoculation of the ſmallpox has made rapid progreſs of late years, among all ranks, and is attended with its uſual ſucceſs.

Preſent State of Agriculture and Improvement.—The improvement and cultivation of land have made a rapid progreſs in this pariſh of late years. The induſtry of the huſbandman, which lay long buried in a ſtate of indolence, is now rouſed from its profound lethargy, and awakened to the moſt active exertions. Ancient prejudices are removed, and the face of this pariſh is almoſt totally changed of late, with reſpect to the mode of the management and cultivation of the ſoil. The lands are now incloſed with ſtone fences, and the ſeveral farms ſubdivided by ſtone fences, ditches, or hedges, ſuited to the nature of the different ſoils. The farmers are now convinced of the great benefit of different kinds of manure; and in proportion to their different abilities, are active in the improvement of their farms. The indulgent ſpirit of the proprietors in giving the farmers ſuitable encouragement, would ſoon bring agriculture to a high degree of improvement. The farmers have lately almoſt altogether changed that wretched mode of management, in which their anceſtors had obſtinately perſevered for many centuries. This will appear in the cleareſt manner, from a ſtate of this pariſh, and the mode of managing the land about 60 or 70 years ago, different from the preſent, as afterward will be pointed out. The firſt openings of the great advantage of incloſing, ſubdividing, and improving land here, took their riſe from the example and active exertions of the late John Dalyell, Eſq; of Barncroſh, and a proprietor of land in this pariſh. He was the firſt who diſcovered and made uſe of marl. By this manure, he raiſed, upon the pooreſt land, the moſt luxuriant crops of different kinds of grain, to the aſtoniſhment of all the country around. He meliorated the ſoil, and raiſed the fineſt crops of natural and artificial graſſes of different kinds. He gave the firſt example of amending the breed of horſes, black cattle, and ſheep. The paſture being improved, he was

enabled

enabled to breed the beſt cattle, and fatten them in the higheſt degree for the butcher. His example and ſucceſs, rouſed the gentlemen and farmers to begin and purſue his mode, and raiſed an uncommon ſpirit of improvement in this place. The farmers having exhauſted the marl, improve the land now with lime from England, imported at the harbour of Tongland, at the rate of 1s. and 1s. 1d. the Carliſle buſhel, which is equal to about 3 Wincheſter buſhels. They make uſe of ſea-ſhells as a manure, which they import at the ſame harbour, at the rate of 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. the ton. They uſe light ploughs of the Engliſh form, and plough their land with 2 horſes, without a driver. They uſe 3 horſes, with a driver, in ploughing the firſt furrow, and in ſtiff and ſour land. They lay out their land by ſowing rye-graſs and clover, which produce good crops of hay, and form a rich paſture for feeding their cattle. They are coming gradually into the cuſtom of uſing green crops. The greateſt obſtacle to the preſent ſpirited exertion of the huſbandman, is the very high rent of land in its natural ſtate, and the great expenſe of procuring manure. In the preſent ſeaſon therefore of induſtry, and ſpirited exertion, nothing can be more hurtful and impolitic to the improvement of agriculture, than the proprietors of land raiſing it upon the tenants to a racked rent in its natural ſtate. This damps the ſpirit of induſtrious tenants, throws them into a ſtate of deſpair, and deprives them of all the means of induſtry and improvement. It is to be hoped, that the good ſenſe, and benevolent ſpirit of the gentlemen in this corner, will prevent them from falling into an error ſo fatal to the ſucceſs of agriculture, and to the general good of the country. The induſtrious farmer, in the ſcale of ſociety, merits due encouragement from the proprietors of land in every well regulated ſtate. It is to be hoped, that their intereſt

intereſt in this reſpect will never be loſt view of by their ſuperiors.

Produce of Land in Agriculture and Paſturage, &c.—The land in this pariſh is well ſuited for both. The farmers raiſe excellent crops of oats, barley and bear, from the improved land. There is little wheat, peaſe or rye ſown, as they are not deemed ſo ſuitable for the ſoil. As the ſoil is thin, they find wheat is a great impoveriſher. They plant great quantities of potatoes, in the drill form, which thrive well, and make ample returns to them for their labour. Excellent crops of barley and bear are raiſed from the potato ground the enſuing ſeaſon. Good crops of rye-graſs and clover are raiſed, when the improved land is laid out for paſture. There is no fixed rotation of crops obſerved by the farmers, but every one varies his practice, according to his particular taſte, and the nature of the ſoil. There are conſiderable quantities of natural meadow ground in different places, particularly on each ſide of the water of Tarff, and great quantities of meadow hay are produced from them every year. The hay on the Tarff is reckoned of an inferior quality, from being much ſanded by frequent inundations in rainy ſummers. When it is cut, great quantities of it are carried down the water by ſudden falls of rain. There is little flax produced, except what the farmers make uſe of for their families; many parts, however, are well ſuited for this article. The farmers breed a conſiderable number of young cattle every year. The late improvement of the land has greatly improved their paſture grounds, which enables them to keep more cows, and to feed them better. Their young cattle thrive well in general, and numbers keep them out in the fields in winter before they are a year old, and feed them with ſtraw and hay. Their cattle are of the Galloway kind,

and

and are much coveted in England by the graziers, from their ſhape, and being eaſily fattened. They in general have no horns, and for that reaſon are the more coveted by the cattle-dealers. Their beef is reckoned uncommonly tender, delicate and juicy, and is much prized in the Norfolk and London markets. They have paid great attention of late, in the choice of their cows and bulls, to have them of the moſt approved make and ſhape. There are ſome of the Bakewell breed of cattle introduced here of late years. They breed excellent horſes for the draught, which are reckoned hardy in enduring labour, both in ploughing and carting. The north end of the pariſh being mooriſh, anſwers well for ſheep-paſture. The ſheep are of the black faced kind, are hardy, and endure the winter-ſtorms. The farmers in the ſouth end, and middle of the pariſh, keep only a few ſheep of the Bakewell and Cully ſpecies for the uſe of their families, and a few of them for ſale. The paſture being good, they thrive well. There are none of the Spaniſh breed here; but ſome of them are introduced into the neighbourhood by Lord Daer, a young nobleman, who pays uncommon attention to every ſpecies of improvement that can be uſeful to the country, both in agriculture, manufactures and roads. Some hogs are produced, both for ſale and for home conſumption. There are nearly about 1200 black cattle, of which are about 220 milk cows, and the remainder, cattle of different ages, from one to 4 years old. The yell cattle * vary in numbers according to the ſeaſons of the year. In ſummer they keep more, and in winter fewer. Their yell cattle are fed out of doors in the winter ſeaſon with ſtraw and hay. The milk cows are houſed. There are in whole about 129 horſes of different ages, and about 790 ſheep of the different kinds, and between 80 and 90 hogs of different ages. There are 35 ploughs, and 58 carts employed for the purpoſes

* Cattle not giving milk.

poſes of agriculture, leading manure, bringing home fuel, and exporting the produce in grain and potatoes *.

Rental, &c.—The valued rent in the ceſs-books of the county is L. 2815 : 6 : 8 Scots. The real rent now paid is nearly about L. 2680, 7 s. Sterling, and is ſtill riſing, upon the giving new leaſes to the tenants. The land is let at various rates the acre, according to its richneſs and fertility, from 5 s. to 10 s. 12 s. 15 s. and ſome rich ſpots at L. 1 the acre, without any allowance for manure. Some of the land is thought to be very dear, and other parts moderate, as is the general caſe in every pariſh. It requires great induſtry and good management in the tenants to be able to pay the preſent rents in general. The farms for the moſt part are large, paying from L. 60 to L. 150 and L. 190 Sterling of yearly rent; ſome few at L. 15, L. 20 and L. 30 Sterling. There was a ſtagnation in the rent of land about the middle of the American war; but ſince its concluſion, land has riſen rapidly, both in its price and yearly value. The farms are large, and what was let about 40 or 50 years ago in *runrig*, to 4, 5, and 8 tenants, is now let to one tenant *in cumulo* †.

Population.—

* *Seed-time and Harveſt.*—This pariſh conſiſts of dry and thin land, which produces an early ſeed-time and harveſt. In dry ſprings, the ſeed-time begins about the middle of March, and the ſowing of corn is finiſhed by the middle of April. Barley and bear are ſown about the latter end of April, and beginning of May. Potatoes are planted in the month of May. Bear and barley harveſt begins about the middle of Auguſt. Corn harveſt begins, in general, the beginning of September, and is finiſhed about the end of that month. The harveſt is a little later in ſome mooriſh places, in the north end of the pariſh.

† *Price of Labour and Proviſions.*—The price of labour has increaſed greatly of late. An able-bodied ſervant man, ſuited for the labour of a farmer, receives L. 9 and L. 10 Sterling a-year, with his victuals. Ser-

vant

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population was then 537. By a careful ſurvey in 1792, the number of the inhabitants, old and young, amounts to 520. It is generally believed that population has decreaſed within theſe 40 or 50 years paſt. Of the above number, there are 249 males and 271 females. The record of baptiſms before the 1769 had received no kind of attention. The average of baptiſms and marriages, hath been 13 baptiſms, and 8 or 9 marriages yearly, ſince the 1769. There has never been a record of burials kept. The letting of large farms to one tenant, which were formerly let to 4, 6, and 8 tenants, muſt be an obvious cauſe of depopulation, joined with the late erection of

vant women receive L. 3 and L. 4 Sterling a-year, with their victuals. The men receive L. 1, 5 s. and L. 1, 10 s. Sterling, and ſome more, for the labour of the harveſt, with victuals. Women receive L. 1 and L. 1, 5 s. Sterling, for the harveſt, with victuals. In ſummer, common labourers, 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. a-day, without victuals; and 8 d. 9 d. and 10 d. with victuals; in winter, 10 d. without, and 7 d. with victuals. Good mowers of hay, 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d. without, and 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. with victuals. Maſons and carpenters, 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 9 d. without, and 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. with victuals. Tailors, 8 d. and 9 d. a-day, with victuals. The farmers, of late years, find much difficulty in finding labourers at the above high wages, which bears hard upon them, and renders the labour of agriculture very expenſive. This is owing of late to the introduction of the cotton manufacture, which occupies great numbers, who formerly were engaged in the labour of agriculture.—The price of oatmeal is generally, in fruitful ſeaſons, about 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 9 d. the ſtone, which is equal to 2 pecks of Linlithgow meaſure. Potatoes are 1 s. and 1 s. 4 d. the peck. In the years of ſcarcity, 1782 and 1783, the price of meal was high, but there was ſtill plenty of it in this corner; owing, in a great meaſure, to the early ſeaſon of the harveſt in this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes. The price of beef is generally 3 d. and 3½ d. the pound, Engliſh weight; and mutton and lamb, 2 d. 2½ d. and 3 d. the pound, ditto weight; pork, at 2 d. and 2½ d. the pound, ditto weight. Freſh beef and mutton is generally high priced in the ſpring. Butter is 6 d. and 7 d. the pound, Engliſh; and cheeſe, 2½ d. and 3 d. the pound, ditto weight. Theſe prices may all of them be reckoned reaſonable, conſidering the high rent of land, and the high wages paid by the farmer for every article of labour, in the management of his farm.

of villages, and the introduction of the cotton-manufacture into various parts of this neighbourhood. But the above are only arguments for a local, not a general depopulation in this corner; as the additional population in towns and in villages, compenſate for any local deficiency in a particular part of the country.

Rivers, and Salmon-Fiſhing.—The water of Tarff runs in a direction from N. to S. through the weſt ſide of the pariſh, and forms a junction with the river Dee at the fartheſt S. point of it. It takes its riſe from a lake called Lochwhinnock, in the pariſh of Girthon. It abounds with trout and pike, and in the ſummer and harveſt there are ſea-trouts, called herlings, and grilſe and ſalmon, which run up into it from the ſea. In floods it affords good ſport for the angler. Its banks, in ſome parts, are adorned with natural wood, and fine natural meadow-ground. There are two bridges upon it, one about the middle of the pariſh, where the military road from Carliſle to Port Patrick croſſes it, and another farther S. near its extremity, where it joins with the river Dee, and where there is a harbour for ſhipping. Here there is a great quantity of lime and ſea-ſhells imported every year for manure, during the ſummer ſeaſon. The river Dee runs on the eaſtern and ſouthern ſides of the pariſh. It is a large and rapid river. Oppoſite to this pariſh its bottom is rocky, and its banks are ſteep and rugged, and adorned with natural wood of various kinds: This gives it a bold and romantic appearance. It abounds with ſalmon in the fiſhing ſeaſon, which begins generally in the month of February, and ends the 26th of Auguſt. But few of them get above the works, termed Doachs, erected acroſs the river, nearly oppoſite to the corn-mills and church of Tongland, excepting in very high floods. Above and below the church and manſe, the bot-

tom of the river is rocky. This, in large floods, forms the moſt beautiful caſcades of broken water. There is a bridge of two arches built acroſs the river, a little ſouth of the church and manſe, where the river is narrow, upon a rocky foundation. The falls of the river to a perſon ſtanding upon this bridge in a large flood produce a grand and awful ſenſation. Here we behold a train of the moſt beautiful caſcades of broken water, tearing and roaring, over the rugged rocks, with the moſt tremenduous noiſe. About 20 yards below the bridge, there is one of the grandeſt falls of water to be ſeen in the ſouth of Scotland. Indeed, travellers who have ſeen it in a great flood, have averred, that it is equal, if not ſuperior, to many of the remarkable falls of water in the Highlands. Here the river runs over a ridge of rock acroſs the bottom, and falls into a deep lin. It is ſo remarkable an object in nature, that it has called forth the attention of the Scottiſh Muſe, in the ancient poem of the *Cherry and the Slae*, compoſed by Captain Montgomery, who lived in the neighbourhood, at Cranſton caſtle, and naturally deſcribes this fall in the 6th ſtanza of that poem, as follows:

" To pen the pleaſures of that Park,
How every bloſſom branch and bark
Againſt the ſun did ſhyne,
I paſs to Poetis to compyle
In high heroic ſtatlie ſtyle
Quuhais Muſe ſurmathes myne.
But as I lukit myne alane,
I ſaw a river rin,
Out'wore a ſteepie rock of ſtane
Syne lichtit in a lin,
With tumbling, and rumbling
Amang the rockis round,
Devalling and falling,
Into a pit profound."

The above is a juſt and natural deſcription of this tremenduous fall of water, and perfectly agreeable to the appearance in nature. The ſound and the ſenſe are admirably imitated by the poet. Perhaps our favourite and deſcriptive poet, Mr Thomſon, could not have exceeded it, had he ſeen the object with his own eyes.—At a conſiderable diſtance above the bridge, the doachs or cruives for taking the ſalmon, are erected acroſs the river. In gentle riſes of the water, the ſalmon run into the cruives, and are taken out ſometimes alive, and ſometimes dead, according to the length of time they have been in the cruives. Below the bridge there is a place called the Sand-bed, into which the tide flows at high water; here they take great numbers by a boat and a very long draught-net, when the tide flows. A little above this, there is a deep and large baſon of water, called the Lin-pool, into which the ſalt-water flows in ſpring-tides. Here they take the ſalmon by a boat with drag-nets; but, in general, by far the greateſt number of ſalmon, grilſe and ſea trouts, are caught in the night time, by what they term the fiſhing with the ſhoulder-nets. This mode of fiſhing is both curious and ingenious, and merits a minute deſcription. There is a ſmall net fixed to a ſemicircular bow of iron, and this is fixed to a pole of about 18 feet in length. The fiſherman ties a ſmall piece of bended wood, with a groove in it, upon his left ſhoulder, for the pole of the net to ſlide upon. Thus equipped, he takes his ſtation in the night, upon a rock at the ſide of a pool, where he knows the ſalmon lie, and throws his net ſtraight before him into the water, into which it ſinks, and draws it ſtraight to him on the bottom, ſliding the pole upon the groove of wood upon his left ſhoulder, and when he has it near him, he gives the net a quick turn over by the pole, and brings out the fiſh; and there

is

is another man ſtanding cloſe by with a club, ready to take hold of the fiſh and kill them, and take them out to a ſafe place. In certain places of the river, great numbers of fiſh are taken in the night time by this mode of fiſhing. For this purpoſe there are two ſhoulder-net men, and one man to kill, generally employed through the fiſhing ſeaſon. The principal markets for the ſalmon are Mancheſter, Liverpool, and Whitehaven. Early in the ſeaſon ſome few are ſent to London by land-carriage. The price in the ſpring is 6 d. the lb. Engliſh weight; but when the ſeaſon is farther advanced, it is ſold for 4 d. and 3 d. the lb. The ſalmon taken at Tongland are much admired for their richneſs, and delicate taſte; but thoſe caught farther down the river, in the fiſhing yairs at Kirkcudbright, are ſtill more admired by connoiſſeurs for the richneſs and delicacy of their curd. The fiſhing at Tongland, which does not reach to ½ mile upon the ſide of the river, is let in tack, with a ſmall piece of ground annexed to it, at the yearly rent of L. 305 Sterling, beſides paying the public burdens. The land is valued at L. 42 Sterling a-year, and the fiſhing is L. 263 Sterling. About 66 years ago it was let, with the ſame piece of ground, at L. 8 Sterling, and the tenant could not pay that rent, but gave it up *.

Character and Manners of the Inhabitants.—They are, in general, a decent and reſpectable people in their different ranks of life; ſenſible and rational in their religious principles. No ſectaries. They are all warm friends to the principles of the Revolution Government, and the ſucceſſion of the Family of Hanover. There is not an old woman

* *Mineral Springs.*—There is a chalybeate ſpring in the lands of Upper Barncroſh. The country people uſe it as a cure in agues, and for complaints in the ſtomach and indigeſtion. There is another of the ſame nature near the Houſe of Upper Barcaſtle. The waters of both are not ſtrongly impregnated with the iron mineral.

woman in the pariſh, but would bedaub *Tom Paine* with dirt, if he preſumed to ſet his foot within the verge of it. They hear that the King and the Royal Family go conſtantly to church on the Sabbath day, and hate Tom Paine for abuſing ſo good a Prince. Numbers of them are terrified that the French-Revolution Government ſhould be introduced among them, for every one chooſes to keep what he has lawfully got, and not make an equal diviſion of it among his neighbours. They are induſtrious and careful about their ſecular affairs, in their different lines of life, and do not interfere with matters of State; decent in their dreſs, and good œconomiſts in their mode of living. None of them have been hanged or baniſhed in modern times. In general they are ſober and temperate, notwithſtanding that whiſky is both cheap and plenty of late years, there being only a few who are votaries of that pernicious beverage. They have made great progreſs in civilization and good manners, and have made remarkable improvement of late in their houſes, dreſs, and manner of living, as will appear evident from the following authentic ſketch of the Statiſtical ſtate of this pariſh about 60 or 70 years ago.

At the above period, there was not a hat to be ſeen in the whole congregation upon a Sunday. They wore Kilmarnock bonnets or caps of different colours. In church they kept on their bonnets and caps during the lecture and ſermon, and took them off only during the prayer, the ſinging of pſalms, and the pronouncing the bleſſing. Few or none of the common people could read, and the precentor read the ſcriptures to them in church before the miniſter made his appearance. They had no buckles in their ſhoes, but tied them with ſmall leather thongs; had no metal buttons on their clothes, but large clumſy buttons of wood moulds, covered over with the

ſame

ſame cloth as the coat. The men wore kelt coats, made of a mixture of black and white wool, as it came off the ſheep, in its natural ſtate. Neither men nor women, in general, wore any ſhirts, and when they did, they were made of coarſe woollen; in general, they changed their plaiding ſhirts twice in the year, at Whitſunday and Martinmas. It was long before linen ſhirts came into uſe among the vulgar. They wore no ſhoes in ſummer, nor winter, but in the time of ſevere froſt and ſnow. Their children got no ſhoes till they were able to go to the kirk. The women wore coarſe plaiding or drugget gowns, made of the coarſeſt wool, and ſpun in the coarſeſt manner. The tenants wives wore toys of linen of the coarſeſt kind, upon their heads, when they went to church, fairs or market. At home, in their own houſes, they wore toys of coarſe plaiding. The young girls, linen mutches, with a few plaits in them above their foreheads, when they went abroad to the church, or to fairs, or market. At home they went bareheaded, with their hair ſnooded back on the crown of their head, with a woollen ſtring in the form of a garter. Their houſes were the moſt miſerable hovels, built of ſtone and turf, without mortar, and ſtopped with fog or ſtraw, to keep the wind from blowing in upon them. They had a window on each ſide of the houſe, which they opened or ſhut as the wind blew, to give them light. Theſe windows they ſtopped with ſtraw or fern. In ſuch houſes, when they kindled a fire, they lived in a conſtant cloud of ſmoke, enough to ſuffocate them, had they not been habituated to it from their infancy. They had many of them no ſtanding beds, but ſlept on heath and ſtraw, covered with the coarſeſt blankets, upon the floor. They kept their cattle in the ſame houſe with themſelves, tied to ſtakes in one end of the houſe. There was no diviſion to ſeparate the cattle from themſelves. Their furniture

conſiſted

conſiſted of ſtools, pots, wooden cogs and bikkers. At their meals, they ate and ſupped altogether out of one diſh. They lived in a coarſe and dirty manner, and ate of the meaneſt and coarſeſt food. In general, their food conſiſted of broſe, pottage, oat-meal ſlummery, and greens boiled in water with a little ſalt. The diſhes out of which they fed were ſeldom waſhed after meals, and of courſe, were often thick with dirt. Each perſon in the family had a ſhort hafted ſpoon made of horn, which they called a *munn*, with which they ſupped, and carried it in their pocket, or hung it by their ſide. They had no knives and forks, but lifted the butcher meat they ate with their fingers. They ate little meat at that time excepting the off-falls of their flocks, which died either by poverty or diſeaſe. At Martinmas they killed an old ewe or two, as their winter proviſion, and uſed the ſheep that died of the braxy in the latter end of autumn. At this time their farms had no march fences to ſeparate them from their neighbours. A ſingle farm was let in runrig among a number of tenants, which cauſed them to live in a conſtant ſtate of warfare and animoſity. The dividing the produce of the farm, according to each tenant's ſhare, became a uſual ſource of quarrels and fighting.

Their mode of agriculture was uncommonly ſtupid in every ſtage of the operation. They yoked 6 oxen and 2 horſes in one plough, and ſometimes 8 oxen and 2 horſes. They yoked 4 horſes a breadth in a plough without oxen, and had always one to hold the plough, and another to drive the cattle. They uſed a heavy clumſy Scots plough, that murdered the weak and half ſtarved animals to drag it after them. Their harrows were heavy and clumſy, with the teeth made of wood inſtead of iron. In the ſpring ſeaſon their horſes and oxen fell down in the draught through perfect poverty and weakneſs. They ploughed great quantities of the land, and had poor returns for their labour.

They took 4 or 5 crops, without putting on any manure. In dry ſeaſons, they could ſcarely gather their corn in harveſt, upon account of its ſhortneſs. They ſowed nothing but poor grey Scots oats; their poor land would bear no other ſpecies of grain. This kind of oats yielded little meal, and of a dark colour. When their corn came above the ground in the ſpring, they had conſtant herding of their cattle day and night, till the harveſt was finiſhed, and the corn gathered into their corn yards. They built turf folds in ſummer in the fields, into which they put their cattle in the middle of the day, when annoyed with the heat; and alſo at night, to preſerve them from deſtroying their grain. In the night they put all their cattle into theſe turf folds, and one or two perſons watched them every night in ſummer and harveſt, till their corns were got in. By overſtocking their farms, the poor animals were ſtarved for want of graſs. In the ſpring, their cattle were ſo weak, that when they lay down, they could not riſe of themſelves till they lifted them up. They fell into moſſes and quagmires through weakneſs, and were drowned. In the ſpring ſeaſon, it was a conſtant cuſtom to gather their neighbours together, to aſſiſt in lifting their cows and horſes, and to drag them out of moſs holes. At that time, and for long after, there was not a cart in the pariſh. They led home their corn and hay in cars, and in truſſes on the backs of their horſes, and their peats in creels and ſacks. They led out their dung on cars, or creels coupled and hung over the horſes backs. The women carried out dung in creels on their backs, and the men filled the creels at the dunghill, and lifted it upon their ſhoulders. This reſembled the ſavage ſtate of ſociety, where all the drudgery of the domeſtic labour fell to the department of the female ſex. At that time there were no ſaddles nor bridles, and they rode to church and market upon brechams and pillions placed on the horſes,

horſes, and halters on the horſes heads made of hair. They ſhod their horſes fore feet, but put no ſhoes upon their hind feet The women had no little wheels, but ſpan with the rock and ſpindle. Their yarn was uncommonly coarſe. They had no candles to give them light in the winter nights. When the goodman* of the houſe made family worſhip, they lighted a ruffy, to enable him to read the pſalm, and the portion of ſcripture, before he prayed. The men had no razors, but clipped their beards every Saturday night with ſciſſars, to appear more decent upon the Sunday. The lower claſs in general were tainted ſtrongly with ſuperſtitious ſentiments and opinions, which had been tranſmitted down from one generation to another by tradition. They firmly believed in ghoſts, hobgoblins, fairies, elves, witches and wizards. Theſe ghoſts and ſpirits often appeared to them at night. They uſed many charms and incantations to preſerve themſelves, their cattle and houſes, from the malevolence of witches, wizards, and evil ſpirits, and believed in the beneficial effects of theſe charms. They believed in lucky and unlucky days and ſeaſons, in marrying, or undertaking any important buſineſs. They frequently ſaw the Devil, who made wicked attacks upon them when they were engaged in their religious exerciſes, and acts of devotion. They believed in benevolent ſpirits, which they termed *brownies*, who went about in the night time, and performed for them ſome parts of their domeſtic labour, ſuch as threſhing and winnowing their corn, ſpinning and churning. They fixed branches of mountain aſh, or narrow leaved ſervice-tree above the ſtakes of their cattle, to preſerve them from the evil effects of elves and witches. All theſe ſuperſtitious opinions and obſervations, which they firmly believed, and powerfully influenced their actions,

* That is, maſter of the family.

actions, are of late years almoſt obliterated among the preſent generation. Both men and women about 60 years ago, were robuſt and healthy, and ſubject to few diſeaſes. They were ſtrangers to every complaint of a nervous nature. This aroſe from the hardy manner in which they were brought up from their infancy, and being accuſtomed to watch their cattle without doors in the night during the whole ſummer and harveſt ſeaſon. From the above authentic Statiſtical Account of this pariſh about 60 or 70 years ago, compared with its preſent ſtate of improvement, in agriculture, the manners, dreſs, and mode of living among its inhabitants, and their preſent ſentiments in religion, the great improvement they have made in agriculture and civilization will appear in the moſt ſtriking point view; and as they are ſtill in a gradual train of improvement at preſent, it gives the moſt flattering proſpects of their future progreſs in the courſe of time. The greateſt danger to their preſent progreſs is the raiſing the land to a racked rent, which induſtrious tenants may be unable to pay.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church and manſe are placed near the ſouth extremity of the pariſh. This renders the church inconvenient, with reſpect to its ſituation, both to the miniſter and people. The ſituation of the church and manſe on the ſide of the river Dee is remarkably pleaſant. The church is old, but in tolerable good repair. Some of its north wall is a part of the priory, now in ruins. The manſe is old, and in bad repair, being ſlightly finiſhed at firſt. The glebe, including the ſeat of the manſe and garden, conſiſts of 7 acres of very good land, at an average, worth about L. 1, 5 s. Sterling the acre. The ſtipend is the ſmalleſt in this corner, being only L. 58, 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, with 100 merks for communion-elements,

and ſtands in much need of an augmentation, from the late great advance upon all the neceſſary articles of life. The King is patron.—The public ſchool has a ſalary of L. 100 Scots, with a free houſe and garden. It is ſituated in the centre of the pariſh, and very convenient for the ſcholars. The ſchool wages are, in general, for reading, 1 s. 6 d.; writing, 2 s.; arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin, 3 s. the quarter, and 10 s. 6 d. for a courſe of book-keeping. There are about 40 or 50 ſcholars in winter, and about 30 or 40 in ſummer. The people are very attentive to give their children as much education as their circumſtances will admit.—There are only 9 perſons upon the poors roll at preſent; ſometimes there is a greater number, and ſeldom or never a leſs. They are ſupported by the collections made at the church, at the time of the ſacrament, and what is received for the uſe of the mortcloth, which, at an average, may amount to about nearly L. 10 Sterling yearly. This is divided among them quarterly, in proportion to their different degrees of neceſſity. They are allowed to beg through the pariſh, but none of them without its boundaries. We have no mortified funds for the ſupport of the poor. There is a ſmall ſum lent out at intereſt, which was ſaved in favourable times, which makes an additional help. Should the number of the poor increaſe, there will be an indiſpenſable neceſſity of applying to the heritors, in terms of law, for their maintenance. This pariſh is peſtered with Iriſh vagrants and ſturdy beggars, through all the ſeaſons of the year. The charity given theſe is extremely detrimental to the native poor of the pariſh. The clamorous vagrants impoſe upon the humane and charitable ſpirit of the people, by their fictitious and tragical tales of miſery; and ſpend the alms they receive, by getting themſelves drunk with whiſky. In their own ſocieties, over their cups, they boaſt that they can earn, by the common trade

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of begging, 2 s. and often 2 s. 6 d. a-day. It is truly amazing, that the police of this corner allows ſuch a deſtructive nuiſance to honeſt induſtry ſtill to prevail.

Antiquities.—Contiguous to the church are the ruins of the priory of Tongland. It was founded in the latter end of the 12th century, by Fergus Lord of Galloway. The monks were of the Præmonſtratentian order, formed by St Norbert in 1120 in France, and received their name from Præmontre in Champaigne, the name of their 1ſt abbey. Fergus brought them from Cockerſand in Lancaſhire to this priory. Alexander, abbot of Tongland, ſwears fealty to Edward I. in the 1296. James Herries, prior of Tongland, in the 1430, repaired the monaſtery of Tongland, which was greatly decayed, and incloſed the precincts with a high wall. He was a Doctor of the Sorbonne, and much famed for his learning, and wrote upon the validity of indulgences*.

Advantages

* Biſhop Leſly tells a ſtory of an abbot of this place, who, in the 1507, undertook to fly through the air to France, from the caſtle of Stirling, and to be there before the King's Ambaſſadors, who were juſt ſetting off. He took his flight from the walls of the caſtle, but ſoon met with the reward of ſuch a fooliſh attempt, by falling, and breaking his thigh bones. Lord Maxwell was heritable bailie of this abbey, and had the L. 5 land of Cargane, of old extent, in the pariſh of Troquier, near Dumfries, given him as his bailie fee. William Melvill was commendator of this abbacy in 1598. Afterwards this abbacy was annexed to the biſhoprick of Galloway, upon the biſhop of that ſee complaining of the ſmallneſs of its revenue. The ruins ſhow that it had been an abbey of conſiderable extent. The pilfering and avaricious ſpirit of the country people had picked out the free ſtones from time to time, till all fell down in one heap of rubbiſh. There are ſeveral Druidical cairns in different parts of the pariſh, in which have been found human bones, ſurrounded with large ſtones, in form of a grave, but no urns have been found in them. Upon a rocky moor-hill, called Barrſtobrick, in the north end of the pariſh, is ſtill ſhown the ſpot of ground where the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, in 1568, with a few faithful friends in her retinue, reſted and refreſhed herſelf, in her

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—By the 2 harbours in the ſouth end of the pariſh, upon the river Dee and Tarff, the inhabitants have a great advantage for exporting their grain and meal, and of importing manure in lime and ſea-ſhells. They in general have an early ſeed-time and harveſt, from the dryneſs of the ſoil. They have fine places for erecting water-machinery. There is a paper mill and corn-mill, near the church, on the river Dee, that have plenty of water in the greateſt droughts; many fine ſituations for erecting cotton-mills. Their greateſt diſadvantage is ſcarcity of fuel. The peat-moſſes are all exhauſted; and the neareſt moſs is 6 miles diſtant, and is almoſt exhauſted. Coals from England and the weſt of Scotland, from the heavy duty, are very dear, and quite beyond the reach of the common people. The coals this winter have been L. 1, 12s. the ton; and they are ſeldom below L. 1, 8 s. Sterling. Unleſs the duty is taken off the coals by Government, both manufactures and agriculture will in the iſſue go to ruin. The principal fuel in the ſouthern parts of this county is coal; and this article is become ſo high of late, that it riſes to an enormous expenſe, and is quite beyond the reach of the poor. It is the united wiſh of all ranks, to have the duty taken off, and laid upon ſome other article. Could Miniſtry know the real diſtreſs for fuel, which many poor and ſhivering wretches ſuffer in this corner, their humanity would inſtantly excite them to remove

her flight from the fatal battle of Langſide, on her way to the abbey of Dundrenan, where ſhe lodged, and from thence croſſed the Solway Frith to Cockermouth, in Cumberland. From this event, the farm has been ever ſince called Queen's Hill. There are ſome veſtiges of old encampments; but of what kind is uncertain. In the moor of Kirkconnel, is a monumental ſtone put upon the grave of a martyr of the name of Clemont, who was ſhot at that ſpot in the perſecution in the time of Charles II. It is at a great diſtance from any houſe.

move a tax, which is now become truly oppreſſive in this part of the country.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the lands of Kirkconnel there is a fine natural wood, in a very thriving condition. Some of the reſiding heritors have planted a great number of trees of different kinds of late years. On the top of a hill called Knockmuir, a little to the north of the kirk, there is a moſt beautiful landſcape, and moſt extenſive proſpect. It is eſteemed the moſt beautiful in the ſouth of Scotland. In a clear and ſerene day, many perſons of taſte, and lovers of nature, flock to this ſpot, to delight themſelves with the varied beauties of the ſcene. Little ſnow lies here, but quickly melts, from the natural warmth of the ſoil.—We have all the natural wild animals that are common to this corner of the country. All the migratory birds appear here very early in their ſeaſons, and ſome of them continue longer than in ſome other parts of the county.—There have been no remarkable inſtances of longevity of late years; but there are a number of perſons who are above 80 or 90 years of age. Very few perſons have emigrated to America. There are no villages. The cotton manufacture is not as yet introduced here. The croſs-roads in the pariſh are in pretty good repair.

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NUMBER XXII.

PARISH of St MONANCE,

(County and Synod of Fife, Presbytery of St Andrew's.)

By the Rev. Mr Archibald Gillies.

Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

Before the year 1646, the name of the parish was *Abercrombie* *. With regard to the name St Monance, it has undergone very little variation. In the oldest writs

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* From which period it has improperly acquired that of St Monance; the reason for which, follows: The lands of Newark (which at present give a title to a Lord of that name) were formerly a part of the parish of Kilconquhar; the tithes of which are still paid to the incumbent of that charge. But in the year 1646, when the lands of Newark and Abercrombie belonged to two near relations of the name of Sandilands, the one bearing the title of Lord Abercrombie, now extinct, and the other Sir James Sandilands of Newark; they, for their conveniency, *&c.* having previously agreed with Mr Robert Wilkie, then minister of Abercrombie, and a parish by itself, applied to the presbytery of St Andrew's, to have the lands of Newark disjoined from Kilconquhar, without prejudice to the incumbent, and annexed to Abercrombie: Parties being agreed, the presbytery

I have ſeen, being ſometimes called St Menin, ſometimes St Monan, and in modern times, and at preſent, St Monance. —As to the derivation, amidſt the many reports, what to me ſeems moſt probable, is, That it originated from the hermit who ſerved at the chapel, and which gave name to the town. And as it became the place of public worſhip for the pariſh, and the town the moſt populous part of it, through time the pariſh came to be called St Monance alone. For before the period of annexation, the village of Abercrombie was pretty populous, but ſince has very much diminiſhed. At preſent, it conſiſts only of one farm-houſe and offices, the houſes of two other ſmall tenants, and a few cottages. The manſe and glebe are ſtill in it. The pariſh is of ſmall extent, and forms nearly a parallelogram, extending from the S. E. where it is waſhed by the frith of Forth, to the N. W. The breadth from W. to E. is about a ſhort Engliſh mile, and from S. to N. 1½ mile. The land riſes ſuddenly from the ſea, but of no extraordinary height; after which it is flat, with a very gentle and eaſy aſcent upwards to Abercrombie, about a mile, and then declines in the ſame manner towards the N. the ſurface affording a very beautiful appearance. The ſoil in general is a light loam, and friable, very little clay, all quite free of ſtones, and very fertile and manageable. The whole is arable, excepting a trifle in a natural ſtate, and which is capable of cultivation, The ſea coaſt is flat and rocky. The rocks conſiſt of free and lime ſtone, and a great quantity of ironſtone.

preſbytery granted their requeſt *quoad ſacra*. But whether any application was afterward made to the Lords of plantation, and the ſame confirmed by them or not does not appear. After which the name of the pariſh in the records of preſbytery, ſtood thus: 'The pariſh of Abercrombie with St Monance.'—At that period, the church (or chapel, as then called) of Abercrombie was ſuffered to go into ruin, and an old Gothic chapel at St Monance (of which more afterward) became the place of public worſhip.

ironſtone lying ſcattered upon the ſurface. It yields a good deal of ſea-weed for kelp, which is uſually cut every third year, and after gales of wind from the N. E. E. and S. E. a good quantity for manure.

Climate, &c.—The climate is mild and temperate, the air dry and ſalubrious. But when it blows from the E. and S. E. it is ſharp and cold, moiſt, and full of ſalt particles; for the land is much expoſed to the ſea on theſe quarters, and not covered with trees; which if it were, the air would not only be more mild, the ſurface greatly beautified, but the ground more early in its productions, which are much checked in the ſpring by the winds from theſe points, and which commonly blow for a long time at that ſeaſon. Yet upon the whole, the inhabitants in general are very healthy. There have been no inſtances of unuſual longevity during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter. But there are many now living of 70, 76, and 80 years, and ſome died a few years ago, at the age of 90 and 91. The ſmall-pox uſed to make great ravages among the children, eſpecially in the town of St Monance. If the contagion got in during the heat of ſummer, when the air is much tainted with the refuſe of the fiſhing, it was then peculiarly fatal, ſweeping off from 20 to 30 children at a time. But its deſtructive progreſs has for ſeveral years paſt been in ſome degree mitigated, by that happy invention, inoculation; and to which the people in general are now becoming more and more reconciled.

Rivers.—There are no rivers, but one ſmall brook, which bounds the pariſh on the W. runs S. interſecting part of the lands of Newark, and empties itſelf, between the church and town of St Monance, into the frith of Forth. There is another in the lands of Abercrombie, which bounds the pariſh

parish on the east side, runs S. E. between it and the lands of Balcaskie, and disembogues itself between the two Anstruthers. Both are in a manner dry one half of the year. Such is the case with all the rivulets in this part of the county, and which is a great loss to it, where there are so many sea-port towns; there being no river, or running water of any consequence, east side of the river of Leven.

Mines.—There is abundance of coal in the lands of Newark, consisting of splint, cherry, and culm, at present working. It is not level free, but wrought by a fire-engine. Likewise one of the neatest and best contrived salt-works upon the coast, called St Philip's; both are the property of Sir John Anstruther, Baronet. The coal and salt, besides what is sold to the country, are exported at Pittenweem. In the lands of Abercrombie there are several seams of coal, but as yet untouched, and which belong to Sir Robert Anstruther, Baronet. Coal abounds in this country, both in the coast and interior parts, and that necessary article for the comfort of life might be obtained at an easy rate. But since of late, coal working has become a trade, by opening only a few at a time, and thus monopolizing them, the price is kept up; and there is no other fuel used, or to be had in this place. This winter the inhabitants have been greatly distressed for want of this article, by the difficulty of obtaining it, and the high price.

Fishery, &c.—Formerly there was a very plentiful fishing upon the coast here, consisting of cod, ling, haddock, rowan or turbot, skait, &c. and St Monance used to be one of the principal fish-towns upon the coast. But within these 4 or 5 years past, the fish have in a manner quite deserted these places, (particularly the haddock) and none are now caught but a few cod, rowan, and skait. Before, fish of all

kinds were in great abundance, and at an eaſy rate, but now are very ſcarce, and high priced; not one haddock being taken in a whole year. There has been no ſufficient cauſe as yet aſſigned for this remarkable change. The ſhoals of herrings which uſed with great certainty to frequent the coaſt, particularly in the autumnal ſeaſon, and likewiſe in the ſpring, are now become very precarious, and of no conſequence. This great decreaſe of the fiſhing is a vaſt loſs to this part of the country. For as fiſh was a principal part of the ſupport of the inhabitants, other proviſions have greatly advanced in price; and as great quantities of herrings, over and above the home conſumpt, were cured and exported, trade has ſuffered much. Beſides, the fiſhers are threatening an emigration to other places; though as yet only one man and family have left the pariſh this ſpring, and gone to the town of Ayr, on the weſt coaſt*.

Migratory

* The common market for the fiſh is Edinburgh. They are bought up by the fiſhers of Fiſherrow, who attend with their boats, purchaſe at ſea, and carry them off. Formerly the practice was, that out of the fleet of boats belonging to the town, two were obliged in their turn to come into the harbour, and offer market for two hours, for the ſupply of the inhabitants. But that good regulation being now overlooked, the fiſhers have wholly laid it aſide. This has enhanced the price of fiſh here, that it is but little below the market at Edinburgh, and they are difficult to be obtained. The lobſters are commonly taken in contract from the fiſhers by a Company, and carried alive in ſmacks to the London market, and other places in England. The boats uſed in the fiſhing conſiſt of a larger and ſmaller kind; of the former there are about 14, and of the latter about 20. The ſmall are uſed both in ſummer and winter, in what they term the white fiſhing. Each of theſe require four men for the oars, and one ſteerſman. With them, they fiſh with great and ſmall line, for cod, rowan, haddock, *&c.* and with nets for ſkate. The larger are uſed only in the herring fiſhing; and their complements of men are ſome ſix, ſome eight, according to their ſize, with a ſteerſman. But beſides theſe, there are a number of yawls, with which, through ſummer, they fiſh with the

Migratory Birds, &c.—There are the ſwallow and martin, the plover both green and gray, the cuckoo, and but few woodcock. Through the whole of the year, the ſea gulls, (called by the vulgar ſea maws,) frequently come upon land; but when they do ſo, it aſſuredly prognoſticates high winds, with falls of rain from the E. and S. E. and as ſoon as the ſtorm abates, they return again to the frith, their natural element. I ſaw ſome time ago, a golden creſted wren, and the only one that hath appeared to me in this country. Its ſize was much about that of the common wren, and nearly the ſame in the colour of the body. The crown of the head was ornamented with a circle of feathers of a fiery orange, or golden colour, with a beautiful bright ſpot of yellow in the centre. Hares and partridges abound; a few quails, and ſome foxes and rabbits in the light grounds.

Town of St Monance, &c.—The town is ſituated upon a ſpot of a triangular form; one ſide of which verges upon, and is waſhed by the frith of Forth, the other two ſides are covered by the riſing grounds. And as it enjoys a S. and S. E. expoſure, it is defended againſt the cold bleak winds, from the N. E. N. and N. W. Its ſituation is thereby mild and kindly even in winter, when blowing from theſe points; but quite the reverſe, when the wind blows upon the ſhore. There is a harbour belonging to the town the building

the hand-line for the tanny cod, (or red ware cod, as they call it,) among the rocks and ſea weed. The hands uſed in theſe, are commonly a man and boy, and ſometimes only one man. Of the number of hands uſed in the fiſhing here, only ſuch as are advanced in life hold cloſe by it. The young men engage to the ſhips employed in the whale fiſhing; return when the herring fiſhing comes on in autumn; and, when that is over, engage themſelves in voyages in private ſhips, in different places, during the winter ſeaſon. By this means St Monance becomes a good nurſery for ſea men.

building of which is of no great conſequence. But what merits obſervation, is the great depth of water. At ſtream tides when full water, it is from 18 to 20 feet deep at the entrance; and in ordinary floods, from 13 to 15, though the building extends but a very ſhort way out to ſea. But though by this depth of water it is capable to admit veſſels of burden, yet none frequent it but in the ſummer ſeaſon; and then but very ſeldom, and when freighted to the place: For the entrance is narrow between two ridges of rocks, the bottom rough, and thereby difficult and dangerous.

Diviſion and Rent of Lands, &c.—The whole of the lands of Newark are incloſed with hedge and ditch, except a ſmall part by ſtone fences. There is no real farmer, who makes farming his ſole buſineſs, but one, and his farm is of no great extent. The remainder is let off in ſmall parcels to the inhabitants of the town. Theſe take it not ſo much for the profit ariſing from farming, as to enable them to keep their horſes, which, by their being employed in driving of coal, fiſh, and otherwiſe, thereby procure their own ſupport, and enable them to pay the rent. Likewiſe, a good number of cows are kept, for the ſale of milk to the other inhabitants. The lands of Newark contain about 266 acres, and they are generally let from L. 2, 2 s. up to L. 3 the acre. The valued rent of this part of the pariſh is L. 120, 13 s. 4 d. Scots; but the real rent I cannot aſcertain. For, beſides the rent of land, there are the feus in the town, tithes upon the fiſhing, &c. There are already large two thirds of the lands of Abercrombie incloſed, and the people are at preſent engaged in that work, decorating the incloſures with clumps of trees here and there. The whole is done with hedge and ditch, for there is no freeſtone in the grounds, but what lies very deep. The farmers are ſufficiently

ciently convinced of the advantage of incloſing, which they ſhow, by giving higher rents for incloſed than unincloſed grounds. The whole of the lands of Abercrombie are divided into farms, containing from 40 to 60, 80, and 117 acres, and but a triſle in ſmall parcels. The rent varies, ſome being 15 s. L. 1, L. 1, 10 s. L, 1, 15 s. and ſome up to L. 2 the acre. The whole acres are 600, and upwards. The valued rent is L. 1486 Scots, but the real rent I cannot determine. The whole number of acres, therefore, in the pariſh is about 866, and the valued rent L. 2693 : 13 : 4 Scots. There is a mill in the lands of Abercrombie, to which all the tenants are thirled, for ſuch grains as are mealed for the uſe of their families, and pay multure.

Agriculture, &c.—About 15 years ago, the only plough uſed here was the old Scots plough, of a very heavy and clumſy conſtruction. It was drawn ſometimes by 2 oxen, and 2 horſes; and ſometimes by 4 oxen and 1 horſe. But what is now generally uſed is the ſmall Engliſh plough with iron mould-board; and the Scots plough, of a ſhorter and lighter conſtruction than formerly; and a plough, compoſed of partly Engliſh and partly Scots, having an iron mould-board and head. The Engliſh plough makes the neateſt work, but does not anſwer in ſtony ground; whereas the Scots anſwers all grounds. All theſe ploughs are now commonly drawn by 2 ſtrong horſes; except when breaking up ſtiff land from graſs that has been down for ſome years, then 3 or 4 horſes are uſed. One man both holds the plough, and manages the horſes by a pair of long reins, except when more than 2 horſes are uſed. The roller is frequently uſed here, as the ground is friable, in the ſpring upon the wheat crop, to ſhut up the ſurface, and thereby to prevent the fatal effect of the froſt at that ſeaſon; and

and upon the ſown barley grounds to preſerve the moiſture from the violent exhalation. All curved and broad ridges are now done away, and the ridges are made ſtraight and narrow; the ſurface is by far more neatly dreſſed than formerly, and gives pleaſure to the beholder. It is only within theſe few years, that wheat or barley were ſown in the pariſh to any extent; but now a conſiderable quantity of both. The wheat is generally ſown after potatoes, fallow, and beans or peaſe, and the time of ſowing, from the middle of September even till the end of November; but the greater portion in October. Beans, peaſe, and oats, from the beginning of March to the middle of April. The greateſt part of the beans are in drills, which are dreſſed with the hand-hoe, and furrowed up with a light plough, conſtructed for that purpoſe, with a mould-board on both ſides, in ſummer. There uſed to be a great quantity of flax-ſeed ſown by the inhabitants, who hired the ground from the tenants. But of late, the price of the ſeed and rent of land have riſen to ſo great a height, that but a ſmall quantity is now ſown in compariſon of what uſed to be, and the return not compenſating their expenſe. The time of ſowing is from the middle of March to the end of April. Potatoes the whole of April; and bear and barley from the beginning to the end of May, among the latter, graſs-ſeeds are ſown, and rolled down. Turnips, of which there are now large fields, are ſown from the middle of June to the middle of July. The farmers uſe turnip to fatten cattle with for ſale, and which are bought in; for having little or no natural paſture, they raiſe few or none. To the ſame purpoſe their crops of hay are applied, and by this means increaſe the fulzie for their grounds. The harveſt generally begins about the laſt week of Auguſt and 1ſt of September, and by the firſt and ſecond week of October the crop is wholly got into the barn-yards. Of wheat,

barley, bear and ſometimes of beans, a greater quantity is raiſed in this pariſh than what is neceſſary for the ſupport of the inhabitants. Theſe are generally ſold to the bakers and brewers in the towns upon the coaſt ſide, or to perſons reſiding there, who are commiſſioned by ſuch, in Edinburgh, Leith, and other places, to buy up for them. The fatted cattle are commonly bought by the butchers from Edinburgh, Perth, &c. For Fife of a long time paſt has been famous for fatted cattle. Since the price of land has increaſed, the farmers ſow little more oats than to ſerve their own conſumpt; it being a low priced grain, and eſteemed a ſcourging crop to the land. The difference between the prices of grain in the market at Edinburgh and this place, being ſomewhat conſiderable, together with the eaſe of water-carriage in tranſporting it, occaſions the demand upon this quarter.

Population.—The return made to Dr Webſter in the 1775 of the population of the pariſh of St Monance was 780 ſouls; the number in 1790 turned out to be 832, which is an increaſe only of 52 ſince that period. But as there is no evidence in the regiſters of any particular enumeration being taken of the inhabitants at that time, there is ground to ſuſpect that it has been either ſuperficially taken or exaggerated, for the following reaſons: 1*ſt*, Becauſe houſes in the town of St Monance have of late increaſed in number above what they then were, and all are poſſeſſed. 2*d*, Since that period, the coal-work has been ſet a-going, about which ſeveral houſes have been raiſed, and the ſalt-works built, in which are a number of houſes for ſalters, &c. Both of which have brought a number of perſons, and their families, into the pariſh, from other parts of the country. *Laſtly*, The inhabitants of Abercrombie, and country parts of the pariſh, are much the ſame they were at that period. From

all

all which, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that the enumeration then made was not juſt; and that had it been ſo, the increaſe now, above what the number then was, muſt have been much greater. The births, marriages, and deaths, as entered in the pariſh-regiſter for 7 years, are as follow:

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Burials.
From Oct. 2. 1783* to do. 1784,	36	7	25
Do. 1784 to do 1785,	34	12	30
Do. 1785 to do. 1786,	41	3	17
Do. 1786 to do. 1787,	26	6	23
Do. 1787 to do. 1788,	26	7	17
Do. 1788 to do. 1789,	30	11	15
Do. 1789 to do. 1790,	34	6	11
Totals,	227	52	158
Average nearly,	32	7	19

The great increaſe of deaths in 1783, 1784, and 1786, was owing to the ſmall-pox getting into the town of St Monance in the height of ſummer, when the air is tainted by the refuſe of the fiſhing, (as before obſerved,) which, when it happened, never failed to ſweep off a great number of children. It is to be obſerved, that the great exceſs of births beyond the deaths, in the above ſpace of 7 years, is owing to many of the preſent inhabitants continuing ſtill to bury in the pariſhes from whence they came, and the cuſtom of paying the tax upon deaths in the place where the dead are interred. The whole pariſh belongs to two proprietors,

* The reaſon why the calculation begins at the 2d of October, is, becauſe the tax upon births, &c. did take place then, and the regiſter commenced.

proprietors, Sir Robert Anſtruther, Baronet, proprietor of Abercrombie, and Sir John Anſtruther, Baronet, of the lands of Newark; but none of them reſide in the pariſh. In the lands of Abercrombie, all the inhabitants are farmers, and cottagers employed by them; except in the village of Abercrombie, there are 1 wright, 1 ſmith, and 3 weavers.—It was obſerved before, that the lands of Newark were let in ſmall parcels to perſons who reſided in the town of St Monance. Beſides theſe, in that place, there are 4 bakers, 3 brewers, 2 ſmiths, 4 merchants, 1 wright, and 1 boat-builder; 2 maſons, 2 ſieve-makers, 2 flax dreſſers, 1 ſhoemaker, 5 tailors, 6 weavers, and 1 gardener. The reſt of the inhabitants are compoſed of fiſhers and ſailors, land-labourers and day labourers, and ſuch as are employed about the coal and ſalt works. And it merits obſervation, that there are no leſs than 12 ſpirit and ale houſes, the unhappy effects of the keepers of which, by their craft to decoy, are with regret ſeen upon both the health and morals of the young and inconſiderate.

Church, Stipend, &c.—What is at preſent uſed for the church of the pariſh is part of an old convent, on the weſt of the town of St Monance; which is ſituated upon a rock, advancing into the frith of Forth. It had been a very ſtately and beautiful Gothic pile of hewn ſtone, in the form of a croſs, with a ſquare ſteeple in the centre *. The walls of the ſouth and north branches are ſtill ſtanding, but want

* This chapel is recorded to have been a priory of the Black-friars. It was founded by King David II. of Scotland, in the 40th year of his reign, and was ſerved by a hermit. By his charter, dated "at Edinbrugh," he grants thereto, the lands of Eaſter-birney in Fife, and ſome lands in the ſheriffdom of Edinburgh. It was given by King James III. to the Black-friars. To it was annexed the convent founded by the Macduffs Earls of Fife, at the foot of the Caſtlehill of Cupar of Fife. Afterward,

the roof; of the weſt branch no veſtige remains, and the eaſt branch, with the ſteeple, ſerves at preſent for the place of public worſhip. This part of the building has a very beautiful vaulted roof, with veins jutting out from the ſide-walls, and meeting in the centre of the roof, where it is decorated with roſes, and other ornaments. Over the vault, there is a ſlate roof, to preſerve it from the weather. The burden of upholding this fabric, was laid by the proprietor of the lands of Newark upon the feuars of St Monance, when he let off the ground on which the town ſtands, having the annexation in view. But the building ſeems to have been in a manner totally neglected by them. In the 1772, it was in ſuch a ruinous ſtate, that the incumbent raiſed a proceſs for reparation before the preſbytery, and obtained a decree for that end againſt the heritors. But the feuars were reluctant, pretending they were not obliged to uphold it. This brought on a proceſs between the heritors and them, before the Lords of Seſſion, in which they were caſt, and found liable to uphold the fabric. During the proceſs, it received a partial reparation, but nothing equal to what was granted by preſbytery; and nothing more has yet been done, either by the heritors, to enforce the decree of the Lords upon the feuars, or by them, to teſtify their compliance with it; and if they continue long ſo to do, this venerable pile muſt ſink into ruins. What a pity is it, that ſuch a beautiful monument of antiquity, and which perhaps has not its fellow in Scotland, ſhould be ſuffered to go to deſolation! The King is patron of the pariſh. The manſe was built in the laſt century, has undergone ſeveral expenſive reparations, but is at preſent in bad condition.

terwards, both were annexed by King James V. to the convent of St Andrew's, at the weſt port of the ſtreet called the North-gate, founded by William Wiſhart, biſhop of that city.—Hiſtory of religious Houſes in Scotland, by a preſbyter under Biſhop Roſs of Edinburgh.

dition. There is no ſchool-houſe in the pariſh, but the heritors allow the intereſt of the money appointed by law, for building a ſchool and houſe, to the maſter, to hire one. The ſtipend conſiſts of 96 bolls, half bear and half oats, Linlithgow meaſure, L. 11 : 2 : $2\frac{8}{12}$ in money, and L. 3, 6s. 8d. in lieu of vicarage-tithes. But of this laſt, the preſent incumbent has never realiſed more than L. 2 : 19 : $2\frac{2}{4}$, though he has often applied to the heritors concerning it. The amount of the whole, (taking the victual at the common converſion,) is L. 64 : 1 : $5\frac{2}{4}$ Sterling, excluſive of the glebe, and which, including arable and graſs grounds, and what the manſe and offices employ, is 8 acres 2 falls.

State of the Poor, &c.—The funds for the poor, are the weekly collections at the church door. Theſe of late have greatly diminiſhed, owing to the increaſe of the different ſects of Seceders in this part of the county, the Relief, Burghers, and Antiburghers, &c. The teachers and managers of each of which ſocieties, artfully draw off the ignorant and unwary from the Eſtabliſhed Church, by this means to make up a ſalary for their teachers; and pride themſelves to have it not only equal to, but above that of the miniſters of the church. They give no charity to their poor; but the whole of what is collected at the door of their meeting-houſes, and what ariſes from the rent of ſeats is applied to this purpoſe. When any of their ſociety are unfit for labour, by ſickneſs or old age, and reduced in circumſtances, being unable to pay the heavy aſſeſſments they lay upon them, and ſtanding in need of charity; finding they can reap no more pecuniary benefit from them, they ſend them to the church-ſeſſion for relief. Thus their practice has laid the church-ſeſſions under the diſagreeable neceſſity of acquainting them, that upon their leaving the church, they will be deprived of the benefit of that fund.

And

And did they not take this method, the whole would be conſumed upon ſuch as contribute nothing to it.* Beſides the above, there are others, ſuch as ſeamen, and of other profeſſions, who enter into ſocieties, and pay into what they call their box, and publicly collect from others, and though they attend the church, give nothing to the poor. Thus the public fund is much injured, and the whole collection which comes from a few perſons, is but ſmall; which, with the rent of four acres of land, and two houſes, cannot be calculated at more than about L. 9 a-year. There are now upon the poors liſt three perſons and two orphans. None are allowed to beg publicly. The pariſh, however, is much infeſted with beggars from towns at a diſtance.

* It may be proper to obſerve, that the above ſectaries are always ready to break the public peace. A flagrant inſtance of which they lately gave in this corner. By forming ſocieties, which conſiſted, if not wholly, yet moſtly of perſons of theſe ſects, for circulating ſeditious pamphlets, and diſſeminating diſaffection to King and Government, by theſe meetings, and private converſations.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the 1782, the harveſt was very late, owing to the rains through the ſummer, and heavy falls of ſnow and intenſe froſts in the end of September, and the whole of October. This did not only greatly injure the crop, but made the harveſt uncommonly late in this pariſh. And as this weather was ſimilar over all Scotland, the country was threatened with a general ſcarcity. The meal quickly roſe to 1 s. 3 d. the peck, which rendered it very diſtreſſing to the poor; the induſtrious labourer and artificer, having a family of children, being above what they could procure by their labour. The ſeſſion, moved with compaſſion, and fearing the fatal effects of the ſcarcity, came to a reſolution to lend their aid for preſerving the lives of the inhabitants. For this purpoſe, as oats or meal were very difficult to be obtained, they thought it proper to have recourſe to Sir Robert Anſtruther, Bart. for his farm-oats to be converted into meal, and to be applied to the ſupport of the pariſh; and agreed to give him for every boll of meal the price current, and to give it 3 d. the peck to the inhabitants below the market price. Their requeſt he was ſo good and humane as to grant. Having thus ſecured meal, the ſeſſion, to prevent impoſitions, made a ſurvey of the pa-

riſh,

rish, to find out the most necessitous families, without distinction of sects or parties. They appointed two days in the week for distribution, Tuesday and Friday; when each person, upon receiving a ticket, and giving the same to the person appointed to distribute the meal, were to receive the quantity therein specified, at 3 d. the peck below the market price. By this means, they not only had it at this easy rate, but were sure of having it. For, at that time, meal often could not be procured for money. This the session continued to do, from the 1st of February to the end of May 1783, when the shipping, in the course of Providence, arrived more early than usual from the Baltic, with a supply for the relief of the country. By this method the session became the happy instruments of supporting no less than 40 families, besides individuals, and preserving the lives of their fellow parishioners from the general calamity.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF KILMAURS,

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MILLAR.

Name and Extent.

TIME, the great deſtroyer of men and things, has blotted out the memory of thoſe circumſtances which firſt gave riſe to the name by which this pariſh is now diſtinguiſhed; and, therefore, as in moſt caſes of the kind, conjecture alone muſt ſupply the place of certain knowledge. In ſome ancient records of ſeſſion, the name is ſpelled *Kilmares*, which appears to be a ſmall variation of the word *Marie*, and if ſo, it is probable that the *Kil* was dedicated to the Mother of our Lord, or to ſome perſon of the family who endowed it, bearing that name. But at this day, it is moſt commonly written *Kilmaurs*, by which ſome are diſpoſed to think that the church, from which the pariſh has its deſignation, was originally dedicated to a St Maurs. In ſupport of this derivation, the ſubjoined fact has

has ſome ſtrength *. The length of this pariſh from E. to W. is 6, and the greateſt breadth from N. to S. 3 miles.

Rivulets, &c.—A rivulet, which riſes in Fenwick, and running the whole length of the pariſh from E. to W. divides it nearly into two equal parts. This rivulet has ſeveral names given to it, taken from the moſt remarkable places through which it paſſes. Here it is known by the name of Kilmaurs water. A little lower it is called Carmel, which it retains, till it loſes itſelf in the Irvine. In its courſe, two mills belonging to the pariſh are ſupplied, but in the drought of ſummer, and froſt of winter, it becomes almoſt dry; a circumſtance which deprives this part of the country of the advantages from machinery, applied to the ſpinning of cotton by water. The inhabitants of Kilmaurs town might find in it a ſufficient quantity to anſwer the purpoſes of bleaching thread, and it is ſurpriſing, that ſome of them have not turned their attention to this article. It produces ſome trout and eel. The Irvine on

* A ſmall figure of a man, cut on one ſide of a ſtone cube, and placed in a notch made in a wall of the church, was found by the maſons employed in making repairs, and which, in contempt of Popery, perhaps had been plaſtered up at the introduction of Epiſcopacy. This figure is in a ſitting poſture, dreſſed in a robe or caſſock, which is tucked up before as far as the knees, leaving the legs and feet naked. The hands appear from under the folds of the robe, holding ſomething like a mace, which is carried as high as the head, reſting upon the right breaſt and ſhoulder. The head is covered with a cap or hood, reſembling a coronet, having 2 creſcents in front. The beard is long, and falls in ringlets on the breaſt. When the practices of ſuperſtition and idolatry are conſidered, into which former ages had fallen, we are led to conclude that this can be nothing elſe but the image of the perſon, in honour of whom the church and pariſh have their name. As power and influence command adulation, ſo there is reaſon to believe that this Saint had been eminent, when ſuch a tribute of homage was paid to him. It is ſaid that the order was Ciſtertian; an order which became ſo powerful, that they governed almoſt all Europe, both in ſpirituals and temporals.

on the S. and S. W. glides along the skirts of this parish for nearly two miles. Salmon, trout, and eel, are found in it, but none of them remarkable either for quantity or quality. There might be a cotton mill erected at Milnton in our bounds, where there is at present an excellent corn and barley mill; sufficient water for both may at all times be here found. On the N. and N. W. a burn separates us from Dreghorn *.

Surface, &c.—The surface consists of large flat fields, with many gentle risings and declivities interspersed. The summits of these are covered with trees, planted in circles, which, with others of the same kind, spread all over Cunninghame, give a beautiful appearance to the whole of this country, as well as profit to the owners, by affording timber for houses. The prospect from these summits, which are in every farm, is extensive and delightful; for many miles all round, the whole country appears as one well cultivated garden. Towns, villages, and gentlemen's houses, meet the eye on every quarter. The hills of Arran, and the frith of Clyde, terminate our view on the W. the hills of Kilbirny on the N. the high grounds of Fenwick and Galston on the E. and S. E. and some hills on the borders of Dumfries-shire and Galloway, make

* Its name is Gawreer, and may be thus derived. *Gaw* is that slit or opening made by a plough or spade in the side of a pond, loch, or stagnated water, by which it is drained off; *reer* may be a corruption of *ruigh* or *righ*, which, in Gaelic, signifies "to run or move quickly." In the sense given of these words, they can be applied, with propriety, as descriptive of the peculiarities which distinguish this stream. It is drawn from a loch in the parish of Stewarton, by a gaw, in which it runs at some distance, and then seeks a course for itself. *Gawreer*, or rather Gawrigh, expresses the idea of a water-course, not made by the natural exertions of that element, but by the accidental application of it to some purposes of art.

make our horizon to the S. About 20 or 30 years ago, there was no ſuch thing to be ſeen as trees or hedges in this pariſh; all was naked and open; every farm-houſe, old, paltry, inconvenient, and unpleaſantly ſituated; not a ſingle made road, either to kirk or market. Now, all is completely incloſed, and ſubdivided by ditches and thorn hedges. New houſes, on a regular convenient plan, and pleaſantly ſituated, every where gladden the eye, and ſuggeſt the ideas of activity, neatneſs and wealth, of which every liberal minded man wiſhes to be poſſeſſed, and delights to ſee in the poſſeſſion of others.

Roads.—An eaſy communication is now opened up to all the market towns, whether far or near. From Kilmaurs town, as a centre, the following lines of road go out; S. to Kilmarnock, N. N. W. by Cunninghamehead and Perceton to Irvine, E. to Fenwick, where it joins the Glaſgow road, W. by Buſhby and Fairlie Bridge to Ayr. The road from Kilmarnock to Irvine runs acroſs this laſt line at Croſs-houſe, and the road between Kilmarnock and Stewarton cuts the eaſt line at Shaw bridge, half a mile from Kilmaurs. Theſe roads ſo divide and quarter this pariſh, that no farmer is diſtant from one or other of them more than the fourth of a mile, ſeverals not ſo much. The expenſe of making and repairing roads here is defrayed by toll-duties, together with a certain yearly ſum levied from the tenants, according to the proportion of valued rent which they hold, and from each houſeholder, in terms of the ſtatute; or money is borrowed from individuals, who have it to ſpare, upon the ſecurity of one or more truſtees, whoſe intereſt is moſt promoted by the roads in this or the other direction, and the toll-duties, with the other aſſeſſments already mentioned, are applied to the payment of the intereſt, and the gradual extinction of the

original debt. Senſible that no progreſs in agricultural improvements can be made, without the advantages of good and convenient roads, the gentlemen in every diſtrict of this county have paid an unwearied and ſucceſsful attention to this object. What an undertaking muſt it have been to travel but a few miles in thoſe days, when no road was any where to be ſeen, and where the ſoil, as in a great many parts of this pariſh, is a deep clay, though in many other parts it is a rich loam, and every inch arable!

Climate, &c.—The operations of the huſbandman are now incomparably more eaſy, that good roads are brought to their doors: But ſtill they have ſome inconveniences to ſtruggle with, which cannot be remedied. They are frequently interrupted by inconſtancy of weather, which obliges them to plough leſs, or more untimouſly, and to reap with more riſk than they could wiſh. It is probably owing to onr being ſituated in the vicinity of the Atlantic, and the high hills of Arran, that we have much rain, and many ſevere blaſts. To the ſame cauſe may be aſcribed the abſence of froſt and ſnow, or the mildneſs of the one, and the ſhort continuance of the other on the ground. Theſe N. W. and S. W. blaſts, however troubleſome in many reſpects, ſerve to preſerve us from fogs, which ſeldom or never appear in our atmoſphere. The inhabitants are generally healthy; not remarkable for longevity, though ſome reach from 70 to 80. One or two are now at 90. Several inſtances of ſcrofula and conſumption have occurred, but not ſufficient to mark theſe as the moſt prevalent diſeaſes. Rheumatiſm is the complaint of many, eſpecially of thoſe who are on the decline of life. Sudden colds attack the young and middle aged. Fevers ſometimes make their appearance, and ſeldom depart without death in their train; but theſe are generally

brought into the parish by servants from great towns, whose parents or relations reside here. Many epidemical diseases might be warded off from a whole country, if liberal contributions were made for building and maintaining infirmaries, in which the sick and diseased among the poor would find a comfortable retreat, and the necessary advantages of medical aid. Donations for this purpose are the very essence of charity, which assimilates men to the Supreme Being, whose providential care extends to all his creatures *.

Population.—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers were then 1094. At present they amount to 1147. The inhabitants may be classed as residing in the country part of the parish, and in the town of Kilmaurs. Of men, women and children in the country, excepting farmers, the number is 384, of these 174 are males, 210 are females, all which fall under the following denominations.

Day-labourers -	27	Smiths, - -	3
Millers, - -	3	Tanner, - -	1
Weavers, - -	15	A gentleman's gardener,	1
Masons, - -	8	Colliers, -	3
Wrights, - -	4	Waulk-millers, -	2

Men

* Inoculation for the small pox hath not yet become general, owing to the prevalence of a religious persuasion, that the Divine Government, without any care on the part of man, will accomplish whatever is best for him. So deeply are the tenets of this kind impressed, that all attempts to show the necessity of using those means by which the Providence of God operates, both in temporal and spiritual concerns, are houted and despised. Much have the Teachers of Religion to answer for, who establish faith upon the ruins of practice. The number of deaths, and the diseases which prove mortal, cannot be ascertained, no register of them having been kept. Births are also for the same reason unknown.

Men ſervants reſiding in their maſters houſes,	28
Do. out of maſters houſes having families, -	3
One who lives in his maſter's houſe, but family out, - -	1
Gentleman's ſervant married, - -	1
Ditto ſervants unmarried, - -	2
Chaiſe-driver, -	1
Female-ſervants, -	46
Gentlemen married,	2
Ditto unmarried, whoſe mother or ſiſters live with them, -	3
Widow living with friends or children,	1
Ditto in houſes of their own, having children,	7
Women never married, living with friends or by themſelves,	17
Houſe-keepers, -	2
Antiburgher miniſter, married, - -	1
Antiburgher ſtudent,	1
Eſtabliſhed miniſter,	1
Kirk-officer, -	1

Huſbands between		Wives between	
20 and 30, -	8	20 and 30, -	12
30 and 40, -	11	30 and 40, -	20
40 and 50, -	13	40 and 50, -	14
50 and 60, -	18	50 and 60, -	8
60 and 70, -	9	60 and 70, -	4
70 and 80, -	1	70 and 80, -	2
80 and 90, -	1	80 and 90, -	1
	61		61

Male children between		Female children between	
1 and 5, -	24	1 and 5, -	24
5 and 10, -	17	5 and 10, -	22
10 and 15, -	20	10 and 15, -	14
	61		60

Males

Males unmarried between		Females unmarried between	
15 and 20, -	13	15 and 20, -	24
20 and 30, -	22	20 and 30, -	35
30 and 40, -	9	30 and 40, -	13
40 and 50, -	3	40 and 50, -	3
50 and 60, -	2	50 and 60, -	7
60 and 70, -	2	60 and 70, -	7
70 and 80, -	1	70 and 80, -	0
	52		89

No man who can work is at any loſs to provide comfortably for himſelf and family, becauſe the price of labour is now a great deal more than it was ſome years ago, is increaſed ſince laſt year, and increaſing ſtill, while that of meal, the chief article of living, is nearly, at an average, the ſame it was 20 or 30 years ago *.

Beſides

* The encouragement given to men, women, and children, by manufacturers, hath drawn ſo many people from the country to them, that the few remaining avail themſelves of the ſcarcity of hands, for obtaining an augmentation of wages. A labourer, in ſummer, earns a-day, according to his ability for work, his known diligence and diſpatch in working, from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. and 1 s. 6 d.; from the 12th of November to the 12th of February, 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d.; in autumn, thoſe who are engaged for the whole harveſt, whether men or women, receive from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. with their victuals; thoſe hired by the day, during that ſeaſon, 1 s. 6 d.; of late more has been given, and their diet alſo furniſhed. Hay-cutters, if paid by the day, receive from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; if by the acre, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d. ſometimes 2 s. 6 d. according to the eaſe or difficulty which evidently attends the work to be performed. The wages of a carpenter, the day, are 1 s. 6 d.; of a maſon, 1 s. 8 d.; both of late 2 s. Of a tailor, 1 s.; but a deduction of 4 d. is always made from the above, when the employer furniſhes proviſions. Many kinds of work are contracted for by the piece, and care is taken by the worker, that no engagement of this ſort ſhall afford leſs to him, upon the whole, than ſome, if not the higheſt, of the above mentioned wages the day. Every tradeſman eſtimates his work, one day with another, at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s.

Men

Beſides the above mentioned number of inhabitants reſiding in the country diſtrict of Kilmaurs, there is another claſs which deſerves particular notice, and which for this purpoſe is kept by itſelf This claſs comprehends none but actual farmers, their wives and children. The number of whom taken together is 249, of theſe 135 are males, 114 are females; and in the following table their different and correſponding ages may be ſeen.

Huſbands between		Wives between	
20 and 30, -	0	20 and 30, -	10
30 and 40, -	11	30 and 40, -	10
40 and 50, -	8	40 and 50, -	14
50 and 60, -	14	50 and 60, -	9
60 and 70, -	9	70 and 80, -	1
70 and 80, -	2	80 and 90, -	0
	—		—
	44		44

Male children between		Female children between	
1 and 5, -	18	1 and 5, -	15
5 and 10, -	20	5 and 10, -	16
10 and 15, -	21	10 and 15, -	11
	—		—
	59		42
			Males

Men ſervants are hired for a half year at from L. 4 to L. 4, 10 s.; women, for the ſame time, at L. 1, 15 s. ſome at L. 2. There are only 3 or 4 men ſervants who do not live in their maſters families, and who are allowed L. 6 or L. 7 in money, 6½ bolls of oat-meal, a cow's graſs and fodder, a houſe and yard, a ſmall piece of ground for potatoes and flax, which altogether may be eſtimated at L. 17 or L. 18 yearly.

Males unmarried, and children of those married, between		Females unmarried between	
15 and 20, — 11	*N. B.* Three or four of this class are widowers.	15 and 20, -	15
20 and 30, — 11		20 and 30, -	9
30 and 40, — 2		30 and 40, -	3
40 and 50, — 2		60 and 70, -	1
50 and 60, — 1			—
60 and 70, — 4			28
70 and 80, — 1			
32			

These subsist by the immediate produce of the land, and occupy farms from 15 to 50, and from 50 to 150 acres. There are but a very few of the first, several of them having been united. This, however, has had little effect upon the population, many of the old houses being still occupied by cottagers.

Agriculture.—On the farms black cattle and some horses are reared; of the former, there are a considerable number, for the farmers generally breed their own stock, and a good many for the market besides, which, when sold, as milk cows at a proper age, commonly bring from L. 6 to L. 9. With respect to the latter, it has been the practice here to buy young horses at the age of 4 or 5, to use them for a year or two, and then to sell before they begin to fall off, by which method it is generally contrived to have the work of the horse for the expense of his maintenance, and even a little profit between buying and selling; but of late this practice is almost laid aside, and that of breeding come in its place. Such horses as are reared in the parish, are of an excellent kind, particularly fit for the draught, and when brought to market, have sold for upwards of L. 30 Sterling.

The

The ordinary and moſt productive crops are oats, a little barley or bear, and but a little of theſe is cultivated, being found not to anſwer the ſoil and climate. Early oats are much in uſe, and thrive well where the land is rich. Beans and peaſe are ſown in ſmall quantities, and wheat in a ſtill ſmaller proportion. Potatoes and flax are raiſed only for private uſe, and turnips never ſown as a crop. The return of oats is from 5 to 10 bolls of 8 Wincheſter buſhels the acre, which, for the moſt part, renders in meal about 18 or 19 pecks from the boll, each peck weighing 8 lb. Of bear the produce is from 4 to 8 bolls the acre; barley rather leſs. Beſides ſerving the inhabitants, a very conſiderable quantity of oats and oat-meal is carried to the adjacent towns, and exported to Glaſgow and Paiſley, where the oats are ſold for 19 s. or 20 s. the boll, oat-meal at 17 s. 4 d. 17 s. 5 d. each boll weighing 8 ſtone, barley at L. 1, 6 s. bear at L. 1, 4 s. beans and peaſe at 4 s. the buſhel *.

Farmers in times that are now paſt were allowed to chooſe for themſelves what kind and what portion of land they would lay under ſome of theſe crops; for it was only ſome that they could raiſe, during which time they could not produce plenty, conſequently paid a very ſmall rent. They neither knew the full force of lime, nor had it in their power, for want of roads, to apply it. In the early dawning of agricultural knowledge, they were taught to confine themſelves to croft and outfield; the former was ploughed 3 and reſted one year; and when laid down for this

* The ſeed time for oats commences the 1ſt of April, and ends in the beginning of May; potatoes are planted about the ſame time; beans and peaſe are ſown rather earlier; barley, from the 1ſt of May to the 1ſt of June; ſpring wheat in March, and that for winter in September or October, but of theſe we have very little. The time of reaping is from the 1ſt of September to the middle of October.

this ſhort reſt, it got a little dreſſing, with what dung could be ſpared from garden and potatoes. The outfield lay in graſs ſo many years, and was ploughed ſo many as was agreed upon, without any manure whatever, during which time there were bad crops, and as bad paſture; therefore poor tenants, and ſmall ill paid rents. When ſuch leaſes came to an end, and when the land was completely incloſed, the diſtinction of outfield and infield was taken away, and a method of farming, very ſimple, yet well adapted to the nature of the ſoil, was introduced, particularly in the management of Lord Eglinton's eſtate. The great object was to lift the land for tillage, and to lay it down again in good heart. Reſt and lime were ſufficient for the firſt, and a reſtriction in ploughing, with the application of dung to the laſt or two laſt crops in that reſtriction for the latter. To promote theſe ends effectually 3 diviſions were made of each farm, 1 of which was limed at the proprietor's expenſe with the quantity of 100 or 150 bolls the acre, which is burnt by the farmers themſelves, and ſpread upon the field to be ploughed, ſometimes 12 months, and ſometimes only 2 before tilling. This one diviſion and no more is allowed at a time to be in tillage. The other 2 remain under graſs. After ploughing the one diviſion mentioned for 3 years ſucceſſively, it was committed to reſt on the laſt of theſe, with graſs-ſeeds ſown among thoſe for the 3d crop. Then another diviſion, limed at the tenant's expenſe, was broken up, and ſo in rotation. The tenant is always permitted to cut the graſs for the 1ſt year of that diviſion which was laſt laid down. This method is ſtill in practice; but where the farm is large, another mode has been adopted; 4 diviſions are preferred to 3; and each diviſion is ploughed 3 years, then reſts 9; or 2 grain crops are taken from it, and then is turned into paſture, in which ſtate

it continues for 6 years *.—The rent a-acre has been as low as 4s. or 5s. Then the tenants were poorer than now, when it, upon an average, is ſo high as L. 1, 2s. or L. 1, 3s. Where leaſes have been granted within theſe 5 years paſt, the rent is from L. 1, 10s. to L. 1, 12s. In a particular farm 74 acres of paſture land was let about a month ago, for 2 years after Whitſunday 1794, at L. 124 Sterling, and a number of acres in the ſame farm, for ploughing, 3 years, at L. 5 and L. 5, 10s. the acre; nor is there reaſon for complaints, for that land yielded, on each acre, 10 or 12 bolls of corn; yet this very land, between 20 and 30 years ago, was rented ſo low as 4s. or 5s. an acre, and after all the tenant went a bankrupt out of it. Little reaſon, then, have our farmers to upbraid thoſe gentlemen who have raiſed their rents, ſeeing they have alſo taught them how to acquire even more than theſe rents. There have been, and there will always be ſome men in ſociety, ſo ſtupid as not to be ſenſible of their own intereſt, or ſo wicked as not to be grateful when it is promoted; but the good and wiſe will be open to conviction, ready to ſubmit to inſtruction, and to be governed by the judgment of others, whoſe

* Some attribute the introduction of this laſt mode to Mr Fairlie of Fairlie, in the management of his own and the Earl of Eglinton's eſtates. Some ſay the alteration originated from Mr Snodgraſs of Cuninghamhead; others affirm, that Mr Ralſton, factor for Lord Eglinton, is the author of it, and that he firſt practiſed it in the culture of a large farm which he poſſeſſes. Any, nay all of theſe gentlemen, are well qualified for making uſeful and important diſcoveries in the province of agriculture. Whoever of them has the merit of this, it is abundantly evident, that the land by it muſt be ſtill preſerved in ſtrength and vigour, eſpecially when this circumſtance is conſidered, that the tenants are ſtrictly prohibited from laying dung upon ley, and bound to apply it only to the diviſion immediately in tillage. In every tack granted by the leaſes of Lord Eglinton's lands, the preciſe method of huſbandry is deſcribed, and a ſtrict regard to it ſecured by an high penalty in caſe of forfeiture, which in every inſtance has been demanded, and however reluctantly, paid.

knowledge is better cultivated, and whoſe obſervation is more accurate and extenſive than their own; of theſe laſt it is hoped there are not a few in the pariſh of Kilmaurs. Induſtry in any undertaking is, for the moſt part, abundantly rewarded: "The hand of the diligent maketh rich;" and induſtry, recommended by thoſe whoſe rank ſets them above the common level of life, cannot fail of gaining attention, which is the firſt ſtep towards a conformity of action. Such examples are in the eye of the farmers of Kilmaurs. Several gentlemen occupy their own eſtates, or at leaſt in part, on which they practiſe the moſt approved methods of huſbandry, and add to them the diſcoveries of their own experiments*. The contents of the pariſh in acres, and the amount

* Captain Cuninghame of Thornton, who, though ſtill a young man, and when ſtill much younger, was bred up to a military life, in which, the leſs that is thought of *mother earth* the better, has, in the courſe of a few years, by unwearied application, attained a very uncommon degree of knowledge, both in the theory and practice of agriculture, as is evident from the preſent ſtate of his lands, compared with that in which he found them, and the eaſe and affluence of his preſent circumſtances, which, in a great meaſure, is owing to his own careful management. Such an example of induſtry followed by ſucceſs, affords an excellent leſſon, and it would be injuſtice to the publice to with-hold it.—Mr John Morrice, who having followed a ſeafaring life, in which, by knowing when to lay hold of the opportunities that Providence puts in every man's power one time or other, of bettering his condition, made an handſome fortune, with which he retired, and purchaſed the eſtate of Craig in this pariſh. His firſt operation there was that of repairing the manſion-houſe and offices; but before theſe were finiſhed, the houſe, either by accident or deſign, was ſet on fire and conſumed. Report ſays, that a ſervant, in abſence of his maſter, having found acceſs to the cellar, or place where the liquors were kept, embezzled them ſo much, that becoming afraid of a detection at his maſter's return, took this horrid method of concealing his crime. Be this true or falſe, the very ſurmiſe ſhould make all ſervants beware of indulging any one evil, however trivial it may appear; becauſe one wicked deed leads on to another, till at laſt all ſenſe of character is loſt, and life itſelf falls in the iſſue a victim to depraved appetites. On the other

amount of real rent, are ſecrets which the public, it is thought, ſhould not pry into. Be it ſo, *ne ſutor ultra crepidam;* but there can be no harm, ſurely, in figuring it away. If then it be true, that the real rent comes nearly in

ther hand, too much caution cannot be uſed in keeping temptation at a diſtance from that claſs of people whoſe minds are ſeldom, at the proper age, tutored to the love of virtue. Mr Morrice, though he no doubt ſuffered a great loſs in this event, did immediately begin the building of another houſe, the plan and ſituation of which he entirely made new; but had not the pleaſure of ſeeing it fully completed, before death removed him to a better habitation. The character which he left behind him, is that of an honeſt, ſenſible and benevolent man. Mr Robert Morrice, his only brother, ſucceeded to the whole of his landed eſtate, and the greateſt part of his money. This gentleman, for ſeveral years, was engaged in the affairs of trade and commerce at Glaſgow; from which, with an excellent character, he hath drawn conſiderable gains; theſe added to his inheritance, are more than ſufficient for all the purpoſes of genteel living, which he enjoys in eaſe and elegance, to the great pleaſure of all who know him, being endeared to them by his amiable manners, integrity, candour, humanity, benevolence, and the warmeſt friendſhip. His early engagements in buſineſs eſtranged him to the affairs of the country; but his habits of application, and aptneſs to learn, have qualified him for directing the cultivation of his own eſtate, and for contributing his example to the benefit of thoſe who need to be guided by the good conduct of them, whoſe advantages of education and improvement are ſuch as do not fall to the lot of the many. He has finiſhed and fitted up in an elegant manner the houſe which his brother had begun, dreſſed the land about it in good taſte, made a pleaſant approach, ſeveral gravel walks, with other ornaments, added ſome conveniencies to the offices, and drained ſome fields that were ſpouty and ſour. The houſe of Craig is delightfully ſituated on the banks of the Irvine, which, after falling in a beautiful caſcade, from a mill-dam on the ſouth of the garden, appears again under the windows, in a ſurface ſmooth as glaſs. The Frith of Clyde, the Rock of Ailſa, and the Hills of Arran, terminate the view on another quarter.

In the immediate neighbourhood of this charming ſite on the N. E. is Carmel-bank, the property of Mr John Cuninghame, to whom this account is indebted for ſome hints of information. His houſe ſtands on the bank of the Carmel, from which circumſtance it has its preſent name; formerly

in Sterling to the valued rent in Scots money, the real rent may be eſtimated at nearly L. 5000, the valued rent being L. 5305. Suppoſe the real rent to be L. 5000, that divided by an average rent the acre of 23 s. will produce a quotient

formerly it was called the Mote. There is a tumulus ſtill remaining, near the Carmel-bank, which is certainly that Mote; whether it ſerved in days of old as a ſanctuary, an obſervatory for communicating alarm, or was a place where courts of juſtice were held, no intelligence can now be had. The foſſe, by which it had been ſurrounded, is ſtill diſtinguiſhable, but no veſtiges of building appear. Mr Cuninghame's lands of Mote or Carmel-bank are in excellent order, and diſcover the true ſpirit of agriculture in the proprietor. The friends of improvements have reaſon to wiſh that his territorial ſubject were more extenſive. Beſides the example he affords of good management, he is likewiſe very uſeful to ſociety, by preventing law-ſuits among the peaſantry, to whom he readily communicates his beſt advice; and which they receive with confidence, becauſe he for ſome years made law his ſtudy.

Buſby-caſtle ſtands a little beyond the laſt mentioned place, is now unroofed and falling into ruins. A family of Barklays poſſeſſed it long. The late Lord Glencairn ſold it, with the lands belonging to it, to Miſs Scott. Coal was wrought in theſe lands, and may ſtill be had at no great expenſe. Concerning the Barklays of Buſby, it is ſaid, they had ſomehow incumbered the eſtate ſo much that they were obliged to wadſet a great part of it. One of them, among the laſt heirs, being in ſuch a ſtraitened condition that he could not find as much money as would buy a new coat, made offer to renew a wadſet which was about to expire, and which had every appearance of giving the perſon to whom the former one had been granted, all poſſible chance of becoming the real proprietor, if he would furniſh——Barklay with money to buy a coat. But the man imagined, that ſince the laird was become ſo poor, there was no reaſon to believe that he could prevent the term of redemption from expiring. He was grievouſly miſtaken, for Mr Barklay not only found from another quarter a new coat, but alſo as much money as redeemed the wadſet.

Mr William Ralſton, factor to the Earl of Eglinton, lives in this pariſh, and poſſeſſes a large farm. His attention to, and diſpatch in buſineſs, is ſuperior to that of moſt men. The intereſt of an employer was never better ſerved than Lord Eglinton's is by him; and with ſuch eaſe does he manage his own affairs, that one would imagine he has none to manage; yet it is this gentleman who ſubſets at L. 5 the acre, the arable land of his farm

quotient of 4391 $\frac{7}{3}$ acres; the 3d of which being in tillage, leaves 2928 of paſture. Two acres to each cow, makes them in number 1464. The butter and cheeſe from each cow is valued at L. 4 a-year. The value then of the paſture land in the pariſh, by this calculation, is L. 5856, beſides profits upon young cattle, and ſwine fed upon the whey. 1463 acres, which is 1-3d of 4391, producing 7 bolls the acre, will yield 10,241 bolls of oats, which, at 1s. the peck, comes to L. 8192, 16s. added to L. 5856, is L. 14,048, from which, if the groſs rent, the expenſe of ſeed, manure, labour, the intereſt of ſtock, tear and wear of utenſils, &c. &c. be deduced, there will remain a ſum equal at leaſt to the rent; and it is evident, that the intention of proprietors is to allow their tenants to make one good rent for the uſe of the ſoil, one for defraying the expenſe of labour, &c. and one for the maintenance of their families, &c. While this is the caſe, maſter and tenant have reaſon to be pleaſed with one another. It is not affirmed that the above ſtatement is exactly the truth. It cannot, however, be far from it; and it ſerves to eſtabliſh this fact, that while proprietors wiſh to have a reaſonable rent for their lands, they wiſh alſo to avoid oppreſſion towards their tenants. At preſent the value of land is greatly on the increaſe, and the reaſon is, that every thing it produces is alſo increaſed in value. Butter is here ſold for 11 d. the lb.; cheeſe for 7 s. the ſtone. This laſt article is of that kind which is called

farm, and the paſture at L. 1 : 14 : 10. Under the influence of ſuch gentlemen, agriculture muſt flouriſh. But as men are apt to overlook that which is familiar to their ſight and conſtantly within their reach, it is neceſſary to call in the attention, and to fix it on thoſe objects where it may find uſeful inſtruction. With this view ſo much has been written of particular perſons, that when Sir John Sinclair's publication ſhall be completed, and of which it is intended we ſhall all be poſſeſſed, the actual farmers among us may read in it what would otherwiſe too much eſcape them.

called Dunlop, or ſweet-milk cheeſe, though the mode of making it was firſt introduced into Dunlop pariſh, and from thence communicated gradually to the whole of Cunningham, yet now it is made in as much perfection here as there; great quantities of it are carried from this to the adjacent towns, and particularly to the market of Paiſley and Glaſgow *.

Town of Kilmaurs.—It was erected into a burgh of barony by James V. at the inſtance of Cuthbert Earl of Glencairn, and William, his ſon, Lord Kilmaurs. That noble family then reſided in this pariſh, where they had a houſe, ſome ſmall ruins of which yet remain on the farm, which is called Jock's-thorn, near to the road leading from Stewarton to Kilmarnock, and the houſe known by the name of the *Place*, was poſſeſſed by them, where the late Chancellor had laid the foundation of a very extenſive building, and executed part of it; but from embarraſſments of fortune, from which he expected to be relieved by Government, in whoſe ſervice, it is ſaid, he incurred them, was obliged to give up the plan †. By a charter, written in Latin,

* The price of a good hen is 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. Sixpence, 8 d. and ſometimes 9 d. is given for a dozen of eggs. Every thing is riſen in proportion, and all owing to the number of conſumers employed in great manufactures, where their earnings can afford the uſe of the beſt vivers. The labours of every man's hand are now abundantly rewarded. But he who is confined to a fixed pecuniary income, muſt attend ſtrictly to the rule of three; and unleſs his given number be conſiderable, his proportion will be ſmall indeed.

† This for a time was the manſion-houſe of the late Lady Eglinton. Captain Ralſton now lives in it, a gentleman who went to the Eaſt Indies with Colonel Fullerton, or in the Seaforth's regiment, and returned, after eight years abſence, with a handſome fortune. The eſtate of Warwick-hill now belongs to him.

Latin, and ſigned by the ſaid Cuthbert Earl of Glencairn, and his ſon, Lord Kilmaurs, at Glaſgow, 15th November 1577, it appears, that the five-pound land of Kilmaurs, conſiſting of 240 acres, was diſponed to 40 different perſons in feu-farm and free burgage, and to be held in equal proportions by them, their heirs and ſucceſſors, upon the yearly payment of 80 merks of the uſual money of the kingdom, that is, 2 merks for each 40th part *. It is obvious,

* The moſt remarkable clauſes of this charter are the following: "Holding and having all and whole the five-pound lands of the village of Kilmaurs, with their pertinents, from us and our ſucceſſors, Earls of Glencairn and Lords Barons of Kilmaurs, in free farm and heritage, and free burgage in barony for ever, by all the old righteous marches and diviſions thereof, as they lay in length, breadth, in planes, hills, marſhes, high-roads and foot-paths, water-lakes, rivulets, meadows, paſture and paſture-lands, huntings, hawkings, fiſhings, peats and turf, moſſes and moſſrooms, coal and coal-heughs, orchards, gardens, fruit-trees, houſes and buildings, kilns, bake-houſes, cunnings and cunningaries, pigeons and pigeon-houſes, quarries and limeſtone, ſmiddies, breweries and malting, broom-wood, and groves and ſhrubs, heights and hollows, arable and unarable land, with courts of juſtice, and their profits, amerciaments and eſcheats, and with common paſture, and free iſh and entry, mills, multures, and ſequels thereof, and with all and ſundry liberties and commodities, profits, eaſements, and righteous pertinents thereof whatſoever, as well not named as named, as well under as above the earth, far or near. Moreover, for us, our heirs and ſucceſſors, exonerate, amit, inhibit, and by the tenor of theſe preſents, diſclaim from us all uſe of buying or ſelling, of brewing or making malt, and of all other art or trade, viz. of ſhoemakers, cutlers, waukers, ſkinners, carpenters, and woolſters, to be exerciſed within our ſaid barony of Kilmaurs, except in our ſaid burgh in barony, and the liberties thereof, viz. within the limits of the five-pound land thereof, as above written. And further, that all and ſundry vendible goods, viz. meal, bear, malt, wheat, corn, lint, wool, ſheep, cattle, horſe, fleſh, fiſh, and whatſoever other merchandiſe is in our ſaid barony, in all time coming, ſhall be firſt preſented to the common market in our ſaid burgh in barony foreſaid." Theſe particulars ſurely are peculiar, or very uncommon; ſo likewiſe is this clauſe,—"And no woman, ſucceeding to an inheritance in the ſaid burgh, ſhall marry without our ſpecial licenſe."

vious, that the great deſign of the Noble family in this erection, was to bring together into one place as many trades people as poſſible, and that the feuing of theſe lands was meant as an encouragement and help to ſuch; but it has all along produced a contrary effect. Six acres of land was the ſhare which fell to each of theſe 40 feuars or tenementers, as they are called, the cultivation of which is no more than proper exerciſe and amuſement for a man whoſe employment is ſedentary, and which, with his labour otherwiſe, would enable him to live in ſome degree of comfort. But it is the misfortune of moſt men, to have a greater liking for employments that are foreign to them, than for thoſe which they have been bred up to follow; hence, the tenementers of Kilmaurs did abandon their principal buſineſs, and content themſelves with the produce of their ſmall bit of ground. This burgh land is famous for having ſerved Galloway, Nithſdale, Clydeſdale, and all Ayrſhire, with kail plants; and it was the demand for them that turned the attention of the proprietors ſo much to the cultivation of their little ſpots; but that demand has long ceaſed, other countries having learnt to raiſe this article for themſelves. There is not in the county better land, but it labours under this diſadvantage of being runridge. In this caſe incloſures are impracticable, except where good ſenſe has prevailed in bringing about an exchange of property, and it is hoped, that the beneficial conſequences of the few inſtances of this that have happened, will open the eyes of thoſe who are blinded by prejudice and cuſtom. The number of portioners is now leſs than when the charter was granted, ſeveral of the fortieth parts having been ſold and laid together by one purchaſer, and it is probable, that they will all in time become an united property; a circumſtance not to be regreted, ſeeing, that under ſuch a diviſion, all trade is neglected, and a very ſcanty ſubſiſtence

procured by the poſſeſſion of them, while they are the only object of attention. The town is pleaſantly ſituated on a gentle aſcent, looking towards the ſouth. It conſiſts of one ſtreet only, with a by-lane or two, and a few back houſes, the entries to which are through thoſe in the front. A ſmall town-houſe ſtands in the middle, having a ſteeple and good clock. In this, the courts of Juſtice are held, and the meetings of Council for electing Magiſtrates, and other affairs of the town. No man can be elected a Magiſtrate unleſs he be alſo a portioner, and none but thoſe who are portioners can vote in ſuch elections *. Many of the fortieth parts being now the property of one perſon, there are by theſe means houſes to ſpare for tradeſmen, and more might ſtill be had by ſubfeuing. There is every inducement for ſuch people to chooſe an habitation here. The town is diſtant from coal, wrought in the lands of Mr Ritchie of Buſby, only one mile or a little more. Each houſe has a garden belonging to it, ſufficient to ſupply any family with plenty of potatoes, and every ordinary vegetable. The market of Kilmarnock, which is but 2 Engliſh miles from this, can afford every thing elſe that may be needed. There was a time when 30 cutlers, and a good many tinkers, reſided in Kilmaurs. The cutlers made excellent work, ſome of which is to be ſeen in the pariſh to this day, particularly breakfaſt knives, ſuperior, it is ſaid, to any thing of the kind that has as yet been made at Sheffield or Birmingham. The blade is of the beſt metal, neatly ſhaped, finely poliſhed, and ſet in a haft of Tortoiſe-

ſhell,

* Two bailies are choſen annually, but their influence is inconſiderable, having no conſtables to aſſiſt in the execution of their authority; the diſorderly and riotous therefore laugh at their threatened puniſhments. This is not a defect in the conſtitution of the burgh, but a neglect hitherto of their own, in not applying to the quarter-ſeſſion for an appointment of this kind.

ſhell, or ſtained horn, girt with ſilver virlets *. A branch of buſineſs has of late ſprung up in this place, tambouring, which affords employment to the females, and which has rendered the expenſe of rearing a family not only leſs, but has made it an advantage for a man to have his family conſiſt moſtly of that ſex. Girls at the age of 8 or 9 years, it is ſaid, can earn 8 d. a-day, and thoſe of 14 or 15 1 s. 6 d. It is pleaſant to ſee the effects of this induſtry in the dreſs and manners of theſe people. Long may ſuch ſources of comfort continue; for though the human mind is apt to be intoxicated by proſperity, and the conduct to be thereby tinctured with levity, yet, in circumſtances of this kind, the heart is more eaſily trained to virtue, and the good leſs liable to hypocriſy. Some have complained in the Statiſtical Account of their pariſhes, that theſe works of art, which bring ſo many people of different ſex, age and tempers together are unfriendly to the intereſt of morality. But an attentive obſerver muſt be convinced, that the vices which are moſt hurtful to ſociety, do not prevail ſo much where an open and unreſtrained intercourſe takes place, as where ſecrecy and the *tempora mollia fandi* are frequently enjoyed. Beſides, that virtue which proceeds from the abſence of temptation, is merely negative; and though it may prevent puniſhment, yet is not ſurely the object of reward. That propenſity to imitation which is

* The keen edge which they put on inſtruments requiring it, gave riſe to a mode of ſpeech which is yet in uſe through the country. A man of acute underſtanding, and quickneſs in action, is ſaid to be as ſharp as a Kilmaurs whittle. An old Preſbyterian clergyman, in addreſſing himſelf to his audience, upon riſing to ſpeak after a young divine, who had delivered a diſcourſe in flowery language, and Engliſh pronounciation; ſaid, "My friends, We have had great deal of fine Engliſh ware among us the day, but aiblins, my Kilmaurs whittle will cut as ſharply as ony Engliſh blade;" meaning that the language of his own country would be better underſtood, and do more good.

is found in the human conſtitution, ſhould operate in favour of virtue as well as vice; and therefore, as in every ſociety there are ſome virtuouſly inclined, why ſhould the influence of good example be leſs powerful than that which is bad? Human nature ſhould never be diſparaged too much, nor more expected from it than what conſiſts with the ſituation in which it is placed.

The inhabitants of Kilmaurs town are in number 514, of which 226 are males, 288 females.

Huſbands between		Wives between	
15 and 20,	1	20 and 30,	16
20 and 30,	13	30 and 40,	30
30 and 40,	14	40 and 50,	24
40 and 50,	22	50 and 60,	14
50 and 60,	17	60 and 70,	5
60 and 70,	11	70 and 80,	2
70 and 80,	6		
80 and 90,	2		

Male children.		Female.		Males unmarried.			
1 & 5,	39	1 & 5,	29	15 & 20,	18	50 & 60,	2
5 & 10,	21	5 & 10,	23	20 & 30,	12	60 & 70,	2
10 & 15,	33	10 & 15,	32	40 & 50,	1		31
	93		84		31		35

Widowers.		Widows.		Females unmarried.	
20 and 30,	1	30 and 40,	2	15 and 20,	27
40 and 50,	1	40 and 50,	5	20 and 30,	23
Carry over,	2		7		50

Widowers.		Widows.		Females unmarried.	
Brought over,	2		7		50
50 and 60,	1	50 and 60,	10	30 and 40,	10
60 and 70,	3	60 and 70,	9	40 and 50,	11
70 and 80,	1	70 and 80,	4	50 and 60,	6
	—	80 and 90,	1	60 and 70,	3
	7		—	70 and 80,	1
			31	80 and 90,	1
					—
					82

Cotton-ſpinners,	3	Day-labourers, -	16
Shoemakers, -	21	Apprent. to ſhoemakers,	8
Tailors, - -	4	——— to wrights,	7
Maſons, - -	9	——— to weavers,	4
Wrights, - -	6	——— to ſmith,	1
Weavers, - -	9	Journeymen weavers,	3
Smiths, - -	2	Ditto ſhoemakers,	2
Colliers, - -	11	Flaxdreſſer, -	1
Cooper, - -	1	Clock and watchmaker,	1
Tinkers, - -	4	Women-ſervants, -	1
Stocking weaver,	1	Pariſh ſchool-maſter,	1
Fidler, - -	1	Teacher without ſalary*,	1

The

* No unuſual cuſtoms prevail among the inhabitants of this pariſh. There is one indeed common to the whole country, that of gathering many people together, and entertaining them at conſiderable expenſe when they bury their dead. However ill it can be afforded, nothing muſt be ſpared that cuſtom has ſanctioned. By exploding this in a great meaſure, many would have it in their power to do more eſſential acts of kindneſs to their friends and relations when living. There is little merit in helping to bury thoſe whom we help to ſtarve Nor do the deceaſed feel or enjoy any of the gratifications of vanity or miſplaced veneration, which prompt to this cuſtom.

The people are in general induſtrious, and where their intereſt is concerned, they have addreſs ſufficient for obtaining or preſerving it. Suſpicion among themſelves in tranſacting buſineſs, and deſign covered by an affected ſimplicity towards ſuperiors are perhaps ſometimes diſcernible. Compared with the times which are honoured with the character of pure, the vices which now appear are fewer and leſs attrocious. Like every other community, ours conſiſts of a mixture of characters. Juſtice requires it to be told, that much civility, kindneſs, integrity, and candour, are practiſed by many.

NOTE.

The kirk of Kilmaurs was founded a college by Sir William Cuninghame of Kilmaurs the 13th of May 1403, and endowed by him with certain lands, for the ſupport of a provoſt, ſeven prebendaries, and two ſinging-boys. It is difficult to determine where theſe lands lay; part of them, it is probable, are now the property of James Watſon, Eſq; merchant, Greenock. The tower, of which this gentleman is the proprietor, has been an high ſtrong built houſe, conſiſting of ſeveral apartments, and is ſeparated from the church by a garden, laid out with excellent taſte, eſpecially of the kind which is favourable to retirement and meditation. This, of all other places in the pariſh, is beſt ſuited to the convenience of the clergy. It is therefore moſt likely they had this for their reſidence. The lands contiguous, conſiſting of 80 acres nearly, leſs or more, pay no teind either to the titular or miniſter; and no reaſon can be aſſigned for this, unleſs that they are church-lands, belonging originally to the Ciſtertian order. There was a mill, called the prebendary mill, immediately in the neighbourhood of the lands now mentioned, to which a diſtrict of the pariſh was thirled, and the multures were paid for behoof of the prebendaries. The religious houſe of Kilmaurs, it is ſaid, was annexed to the abbey of Selkirk, afterward Roxburgh, now Kelſo. The church itſelf muſt have undergone many alterations, if it is not altogether new ſince its firſt erection. There is nothing magnificent either in its ſize or ſtructure. The only remarkable thing about it, is a burying place and monument belonging to the family of Glencairn. The monument has been executed at very conſiderable expenſe, but it is now in a ſtate of ſhameful diſrepair. It is open to every idle and thoughtleſs viſitor, who takes pleaſure in demoliſhing the carved work: It is the only intereſt which

the

the repreſentatives of that noble family now have in the pariſh, where their influence was once great, and their property extenſive; with ſubmiſſion, therefore, it may be obſerved, that ſome attention is due to the memorials of ancient greatneſs. We regret that the moſt beautiful ſtructures of art cannot be preſerved from the ravages of time, but when they are ſuffered by neglect to fall into ruins, we cannot refrain from cenſuring thoſe to whom that neglect, with its conſequences, are to be attributed.

A diſpoſition to ſecede from the eſtabliſhed church hath long ſubſiſted among the inhabitants of Kilmaurs: and this diſpoſition was firſt excited by the following circumſtance: About the 1712, Mr Hugh Thomſom, then miniſter of this pariſh, demitted, upon the expectation of being called to Stewarton, but was ſomehow diſappointed; and either his pride would not permit him to ſolicit a re-admiſſion, or a majority of the people, diſobliged with his giving them up, refuſed it. He retired to a ſmall property of his own in the pariſh, and on Sabbaths preached ſometimes at his own fire-ſide, and ſometimes from a tent in the fields, to as many of his friends as would hear him. Five or ſix years elapſed before another miniſter was elected; during which time Mr Thomſon had frequent opportunities of reconciling himſelf to many of his former congregation. After Mr Miller was choſen and ordained, Mr Thomſon ſtill continued to preach in his own barn, or in the fields, to as many as were willing to hear him. Inconſtancy, which always attends the multitude, diſpoſed ſome to go one way and ſome another; directed by humour, local convenience, or by the influence of one upon another, they attended ſometimes Mr Miller, at other times Mr Thomſon. While they were in this fluctuating ſtate, which continued long after Mr Thomſon and Mr Miller's death; Mr Smyton a young Antiburger Miniſter, made his appearance amongſt them. This clergyman by the exerciſe of popular talents, or by the novelty of his declamations againſt the real or ſuppoſed defections of the church, drew crowds after him. A congregation was ſoon formed for him, and a meeting-houſe built. He married a daughter of Mr Thomſon's, and by her ſucceeded to the property of a very good farm which is ſtill in the poſſeſſion of his heirs. As nothing that is violent can be of long duration, ſo the extreme ardour with which this man was followed, gradually abated, and he ſunk at laſt into the climate of cool eſtimation. A diſpute took place between him and his aſſociate brethren about lifting the bread in the ſacrament and holding it during the prayer of conſecration. Mr Smyton inſiſted, that it is of religious obligation to obſerve this mode of diſpenſing our Lord's Supper, and poſitively enjoined by the words of the inſtitution itſelf. By his brethren, this action was conſidered as not

binding the conſcience, but that it might, or might not be performed without incurring guilt. The argument was keenly agitated. At length it iſſued in a rupture. Mr Smyton refuſed to hold communion with thoſe who did not punctually conform to his opinion, and the ſynod paſſed a ſentence of expulſion againſt him for his obſtinacy. He was formally depoſed, but he deſpiſed the authority by which this was done, and continued to preach. Part of his congregation now ſeparated from him, and part remained. It then became a queſtion, who had the right to the meeting-houſe. Whether thoſe who remained, or thoſe who went off. The Court of Seſſion determined it in favour of Mr Smyton, on this principle, that the majority of the Elderſhip, if not of the Congregation, remained with him. The ſwarm that went off ſoon found for themſelves a new houſe. They are diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of Lifters and Antilifters, or new and old light. Of the former, including young people and children, who generally follow their parents, but have made no choice for themſelves, going ſometimes to one, and ſometimes to another place of worſhip, the number is 151, of the other 114, of Burghers, 69, Relief 7. Would to God, that as much of the power as of the form of religion were appearing among us! 'But while one ſays I am of Paul, another, I am of Apollos,' the truth as it is in Jeſus, even that religion which is from above, and is pure, peceable, gentle, eaſy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, is too much overlooked.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH of STEWARTOWN,

(County of Ayr, Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, Presbytery of Irvine.)

By the Rev. Mr Thomas Maxwell.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THE origin of its name is uncertain. But it is ſaid to have taken its riſe from ſome of the Stewart race of Scottiſh kings having a reſidence in it, and the remains of thoſe houſes are ſtill to be ſeen near the town.—It is above 10 miles in length, and in ſome places about 4 in breadth. From many places in this pariſh, there are extenſive views of the Weſtern Ocean, the iſland of Arran, and Craig of Ailſa. The appearance of the country is flat: But there is a gradual deſcent from the head of the pariſh to the ſea. There are no mountains, but ſmall hills in different places, and ſome of them are called Law hills, either becauſe that in old times courts of juſtice were held upon them, or from the *low* or flame raiſed on them, as a ſignal of the approach

of an enemy*. The air is rather moiſt, and in ſome ſeaſons of the year there are heavy rains for a continued time, owing probably to the nearneſs of the Weſtern Ocean, and Arran hills.

Minerals, Agriculture, Soil, &c.—There are ſome freeſtone, and ſeveral lime quarries. But there is no coal wrought in the pariſh, which is a great loſs to the inhabitants, who are at a conſiderable diſtance from it. Several attempts have been made for it in different parts of the pariſh, but they have hitherto proved ineffectual. This pariſh and neighbourhood is remarkable for large good milk cows, of which ſeveral perſons have from 10 to 20. They make fine ſweet milk cheeſe, for which there is a great demand, and which gives a very high price. A tenant of Sir William Cunningham of Livingſton, who was then proprietor of Robertland eſtate in this pariſh, got a premium ſeveral years at Edinburgh for the beſt cheeſe in Scotland. This eſtate is now the property of Sir John Hunter Blair. About 30 years ago there were few or no incloſures in the pariſh, but now it is moſtly incloſed and ſubdivided, and pays from 20s. to 30s. the acre, and ſome of it more, which muſt make the real rent very great, eſpecially as the ground is moſtly arable. The valued rent is about L. 7000 Scots, and I ſuppoſe the real rent may be about L. 7000 Sterling. But as many of the ſmall heritors have their farms in their own hands, it is difficult, for this and ſome other reaſons, to be exactly aſcertained. The ſoil is various in different parts of the pariſh. At the head of it, which borders with the Mearns moor, it is not ſo good, but in the lower part it is moſtly a ſtrong clay ſoil. There are upwards of 90 ploughs employed. The method of improving land here is the ſame

* Hence it is ſaid, that Loudon in Ayrſhire, the Low nond hills in Fife, and Ben-Lomond in Dumbartonſhire, derive their names.

ſame as in Kilmarnock and other neighbouring pariſhes, mentioned in former volumes, and not inſiſted on here, with a view to avoid repetition. There are extenſive belts of plantations in different parts of the pariſh.

Heritors, Town, Schools, Poor, &c.—There are 8 larger, and above 100 ſmaller heritors, who are called portioners, and who moſtly reſide in the pariſh. Mr Cunningham of Lainſhaw is patron. The roof of the church was taken off in 1772, and the walls heightened; it is now well ſeated, and holds a great number. The manſe was built ſo far back as 1642, and though it has got ſome ſmall repairs at different times, is ſtill in a bad condition. The town of Stewartown may vie with any of its ſize in the weſt of Scotland, for beauty, regularity, and cleanneſs. It conſiſts of one long and broad ſtreet, with a croſs one. It has increaſed ſome hundreds, ſince the preſent miniſter was ſettled, and a great number of new houſes have lately been built in it. The water of Annoch, which takes its riſe in the Mearns moor, runs paſt this town in the form of a ſemicircle, and empties itſelf into the ſea a little below Irvine. There are 3 bridges over this water, at equal diſtances from one another, between the head of the town and the foot of it. There are 2 tolls in the pariſh, one on the road to Kilmarnock, the other on the road to Irvine, but none on the road to Glaſgow, which was made more than 30 years ago.—There are 2 ſchools in the country part of the pariſh, and 3 in the town, in ſome of which, (beſides Engliſh), Latin, Greek, French, and book-keeping, are taught. The ſalary of the pariſh ſchoolmaſter is only L. 100 Scots, out of which he gives 20 merks yearly to the 2 country ſchools. But it is expected, as the pariſh is ſo numerous and wealthy, it will ſoon be augmented.—The number of weekly penſioners is 6. They get 1s. And there are 20 quarterly, who get according

according to their neceſſities. The yearly collection amounts to L. 40. None of the poor in the pariſh are allowed to beg out of it. But as the road from Glaſgow to Ayr, Irvine, &c. paſſes through this town, the inhabitants are oppreſſed with great numbers of ſtrolling poor from Glaſgow and the other neighbouring towns.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population then amounted to 2819. There are belonging to the Church about 2300 ſouls. Beſides, there are ſome Burghers and Antiburgher Seceders, and a few old Cameronians; but all theſe ſects live in good harmony with the miniſter and people of the Eſtabliſhed Church. The preciſe number of the whole cannot be exactly aſcertained. There is 1 ſurgeon and 1 writer in the town, alſo from 100 to 130 weavers; but the chief trade in this place, and has been, it is ſaid, for above 100 years, is bonnet making, which employs a great number of hands. They make alſo what are called French or Quebec caps. Beſides ſupplying the country and the Highlands with theſe articles, large quantities are exported, which turn out to good account; ſo that it is ſaid they draw L. 50 weekly in return. The births, deaths, and marriages, as entered in the pariſh regiſter, for ſix years, are as follow:

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1784,	59	54	30
1785,	63	40	11
1786,	60	55	29
1787,	51	82	24
1788,	48	48	18
1789,	63	57	35*

Miſcellaneous

* Beef, mutton, and all other kinds of proviſion, (except meal), are as dear here as any where in Scotland, and ſervant's wages are at an extravagant

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are moſtly of the uſual ſize, and ſome conſiderably above it. They are in general a ſober intelligent people, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and charitable to the poor, of which ſeveral inſtances could be mentioned. There have been ſome inſtances of longevity in the pariſh. A man died ſome years ago, who was about 103, a lady above 97, and a worthy heritor and elder died lately, who was above 90. This is a poſt-town, and has been ſo for a long time paſt. There is a regular arrival and diſpatch at and from this every day, for all towns in Britain, and letters come ſafely here, without having any other poſt-office written on them.—David Dale, Eſq; late one of the magiſtrates of Glaſgow, was born and educated in this place. He is well known in the commercial world for the many manufactures he has introduced, and carries on with ſucceſs. His piety, humility, and acts of charity, are worthy of imitation.

gant rate, which makes it very difficult for thoſe whoſe income is ſtated, and not advanced, to keep a family. Mutton is from 4½d. to 6 d. the pound. Beef from 6 s. to 6 s. 6 d. the ſtone. Cheeſe from 7 s. to 7 s. 6 d the ſtone. Butter from 9 d. to 11 d. the pound, and other things in proportion.

NUM-

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF AVENDALE OR STRATHAVEN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON,)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN SCOTT.

Situation, Extent, Rivers, Minerals &c.

THE pariſh and barony of Avendale is ſituated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark. It is 12 miles in length, and from 5 to 6 broad. The face of the country, as the name imports, is open, riſing gradually from both ſides of the Aven, and on the ſouth ſide terminating in hills. The ſoil and climate are various. In the hilly part, and towards the W. and N. W. boundaries, the ſoil is generally black, and covered with heath and bent, and the climate is very different from what it is on the banks of Aven. In the lower grounds, the ſoil is in many places light and gravelly, in ſome clay and loam, and in others deep moſs, or a wet ſpungy ſubſtance made up of different ſoils. The air, though moiſt, is not unwholeſome, the inhabitants being ſeldom viſited with any epidemical diſtemper.

diſtemper. Great numbers arrive at the age of 80 years and upwards. There are at preſent two people above 90. The Aven *, which riſes on the confines of the pariſhes of Sorn and Galſton, runs from S. W. to N. E. the whole length of this pariſh, dividing it nearly into two equal parts. In its courſe, it is augmented firſt by a cut from Lochgate, which is the boundary between this and the pariſh of Galſton, and afterward by the waters of Givel. Calder, Lockhart, Kype, Pomilion, and a great number of ſmaller ſtreams. There is trout in all theſe ſtreams, and a few ſalmon in the Aven; beſides an immenſe number of ſmall fiſh, reſembling ſalmon fry, called parrs. There is abundance of lime in different parts of the pariſh, and ſome coal, but very little freeſtone. The coal which has hitherto been found is not of the beſt quality, but does very well for burning lime. There is a miner from the county of Durham, juſt now employed in ſinking for coal, about 2 miles from the town of Strathaven. He has found a ſeam between 2 and 3 feet thick, but expects to find a larger, by going down a little farther. There are appearances of coal elſewhere in the pariſh, and ſome ironſtone. As coal is the only fuel uſed in the lower part of the pariſh, and as the price of that neceſſary article has been doubled in the courſe of a few years, it is hoped that no expenſe will be ſpared in ſearching for it, where there is any probability of ſucceſs. Moſt of the coal conſumed in the town of Strathaven,

* Avon, I am informed, in the Gaelic language, ſignifies *a river*. It is pronounced Auon, the firſt ſyllable like the Greek diphthong αυ. From the circumſtance of its being written with an *o*, and from ſeveral rivers in this iſland being called Avon, it is probable that the proper name of this pariſh is Avondale, though in old charters it is written either Avendale or Evandale. The church ſtands in the lower end of the pariſh, at the town of Strathaven, which gives occaſion to the pariſh being frequently ſo called; but *Dale* is more deſcriptive of the face of the country than *Strath*; and the former ſeems to be the moſt ancient name.

aven, is at preſent brought from the pariſhes of Hamilton and Dalſerf, at the diſtance of 5 and 6 miles.

Crops, Cattle, &c.—The crops raiſed here are oats, bear, a few peaſe, conſiderable quantities of potatoes, ſome rye graſs, and almoſt every farmer ſows a peck or two of lint-ſeed for houſehold uſes. The low grounds, when ploughed after being ſufficiently reſted, yield good grain, which in an ordinary ſeaſon is cut down fully ripe; but on the borders of the moors, the crops are very precarious, and ſeldom ripen. In the neighbourhood of the town of Strathaven, where land rents at from 20 s. to 40 s. the acre, the rotation is a crop of oats, potatoes, oats, bear with graſs-ſeeds, and after the graſs has been cut for two years, it is paſtured till the land is again fit for cropping. Potatoes are no where cultivated with more care. Almoſt every tradeſman plants a few falls of ground in potatoes, for the uſe of his family. Theſe he labours at his leiſure hours, from which he derives health and amuſement, and a wholeſome part of food for five or ſix months in the year, at a very moderate expenſe. But this diſtrict, excepting a few farms in the lower end of the pariſh, is better adapted for paſture than tillage; and the rents are moſtly made up from the ſale of cheeſe, butter, and veal. The cheeſe made here ſells at from 6 s. to 7 s. the ſtone, and calves have ſometimes been ſold at L. 4 Sterling; but the average price is from L. 1 to L. 3. The practice of bleeding calves, ſo common in England, is hardly known here. The only arts uſed to make them fatten faſt, are bringing them on gradually to take a great deal of milk, keeping them in a dark place, and amidſt plenty of dry litter. Unleſs they are fed moderately at firſt, they are apt to loathe the milk in a ſhort time; and, like moſt other young animals, they are ſportive, and apt to take too much exerciſe, which is beſt prevented by ſhutting them up from the light. A calf of two months old, well fed, often ſells at

at from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. The demand for veal is ſo great, that the farmers never think of rearing more calves than what is neceſſary to keep up their ſtock of cows. The number of cows kept is about 18 upon the ploughgate of land. They are of ſmall ſize, but well made, and are found to be more hardy, eaſier fed, and to yield more milk in proportion to their ſize than cattle of a larger breed. The value of milk is now ſo well underſtood, that even the whey is turned to account by feeding young ſwine with it. During the ſummer months, theſe animals ſwell upon it amazingly, and by being fed upon potatoes and oats, or oat-meal, for a month or ſix weeks in harveſt, are fit for ſlaughter in the month of November, when they are commonly 8 months old, and weigh from 8 to 9 ſtone. This cleanly ſort of feeding has reconciled the people here to the uſe of ſwine's fleſh, which was once held in abomination. The old Scots plough is the only one in uſe here. It is ſometimes drawn by 3, but oftener by 4 horſes. The number of horſes in the pariſh has been gradually diminiſhing of late years, owing to there being leſs land in tillage, and a great deal of the wet grounds being laboured with the ſpade. Beſides, it is now becoming cuſtomary to buy horſes about the end of January, and to ſell them again about the end of May, when the labour is over; ſo that a farmer who occupies a ploughgate of land, ſeldom keeps more than two work horſes for 8 months in the year. There are a few horſes reared, and the breed is improving. A pair of draught horſes, bred here, was ſold a while ago at L. 70 Sterling. Although every farmer has more or leſs land in tillage, yet the country part of the pariſh, in an ordinary ſeaſon, does very little more than ſupply itſelf with grain. The greateſt part of the oat-meal conſumed in the town of Strathaven, is brought from the neighbouring pariſhes, and the wheat-flour made uſe of by the bakers, is

brought from the eaſt country in carts, which carry butter, cheeſe and veal, to the Edinburgh market. The incloſing of the low grounds, which was begun about 30 years ago, has baniſhed all the ſheep, excepting a few pets, entirely to the moor farms. The number kept upon theſe is about 7500, all of the old Scots breed; and the only improvement which has hitherto been made in this ſort of farming, is that of keeping fewer upon the ground. The wool, like the paſture, is coarſe, and takes about 8 fleeces to the ſtone, which ſells at from 5 to 6 s. In wet ſeaſons the ſheep are very liable to the rot.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls at that time was 3551. Mr Charles Roſs, in his map of Lanarkſhire, publiſhed in 1773, makes the population of this pariſh to be 3770 ſouls. But he has certainly over-rated it; for it does not contain that number at preſent, though it has been on the increaſe ſince that period. By an enumeration made in the years 1780 and 1781, the population was as follows:

In the country, 336 families, 1748 perſons; 60 more women than men.

In the town, 439 families, 1444 perſons; 138 more women than men.

In the whole pariſh, 775 families, 3192 perſons.

Population in 1791 and 1792.

In the country, 315 families, 1733 perſons; only 9 more women than men.

In the town, 469 families, 1610 perſons; 28 more women than men.

In the whole pariſh, 784 families, 3343 perſons.

The diminution of inhabitants in the country is owing to the moor farms having gone into fewer hands, and there being

being now almoſt no cottagers in the pariſh. The proportion between males and females in the years 1780 and 1781, and at preſent, ſhows the advantages of peace, and the flouriſhing ſtate of our manufactures. At the former period, in conſequence of the American war, trade was dull, and many young men enliſted in the army, or left the country in queſt of employment; but there is now more work at home than hands. The number of births and deaths cannot be exactly aſcertained, as they are not all regiſtered. The births, it is believed, are about 100 annually. In the year 1788, more than 40 children died of the ſmall pox. Inoculation is practiſed here, but not generally, owing to its having proved fatal in one or two inſtances. The average number of marriages for 8 years paſt, has been between 32 and 33. There have been 9 irregular marriages during the laſt 6 years.

Manufactures, &c.—The ſpinning and manufacturing of Dutch flax was once a conſiderable article of trade in the town of Strathaven, but has been on the decline ever ſince the introduction of the cotton manufacture. About 15 years ago, from 12 to 15 hands were conſtantly employed in dreſſing flax; now there are not more than 2 or 3 employed in it. The principal employment of the women then was ſpinning, and they were famous for making fine yarn. A conſiderable part of the yarn was manufactured for the behoof of people in the place, and the remainder was carried to the great manufacturing towns. Now the weavers are almoſt wholly employed by the Glaſgow and Paiſley manufacturers, and cotton yarn is the principal material. Great numbers of young women too are employed, by the ſame people, in flowering muſlin. There are upwards of 300 looms in the town of Strathaven, and about 30 more in the country part of the pariſh, and yet it is with great difficulty

that

that the inhabitants can get their home-ſpun yarn manufactured into cloth. The great wages made by weaving, induces many parents to put their boys too early to that buſineſs, which ſtints their growth, occaſions ſwellings about their legs, and hurts their morals, by rendering them too ſoon independent of their parents. The ſame temptation is preſented to the girls by the flowering of muſlin, which, by confining them too ſoon to a ſedentary life, makes them pale and ſickly, and is likely to ſubject them to nervous complaint all their lives. There is a cotton mill erecting at the town of Strathaven, which, it is ſaid, will employ from 60 to 70 hands. There are other two in contemplation. About 30 years ago, there was only 1 baker in the town. There are now 3, and all well employed. The number of butchers too has been doubled within the ſame period. There are 22 public houſes in the pariſh, 20 of which are in the town, and about the ſame number of dealers in tea and tobacco. Some accidents have happened of late years, from the retailing of bad whiſky.—There are commonly 2, ſometimes 3 ſurgeons in the town, and the ſame number of writers *.

Rent, Diviſion of Property, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 7650 Scots, the real rent is about L. 6000 Sterling, excluſive of the rents of the houſes in the town. Theſe let

* *Prices of Labour and Proviſions.*—The price of labour has advanced almoſt a third in the courſe of the laſt three or four years. The wages of a man-ſervant, who lives in the houſe, are from L. 9 to L. 10 a-year; and of a woman-ſervant, from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 5. A labourer by the day earns 1 s. and his victuals, and in harveſt, 1 s. 6. d. or 1 s. 8. d. Maſons wages are now 2 s. and 2 s. 2 d. a-day. In the neighbourhood of the town there is a good deal of labour in the fields done by the piece, eſpecially digging. This place being only 16 miles diſtant from Glaſgow, and having a number of carriers who go there weekly, the price of all kinds of proviſions is only a trifle lower than in that market.

let at from 10 s. to L. 14 a-year. The Duke of Hamilton is ſuperior of all the lands in the pariſh, excepting a very ſmall portion of temple land, which is held of Lord Torphichen. The Duke is alſo proprietor of between a third and a fourth part of the pariſh. The reſt is divided among a great number of heritors. Thirteen are poſſeſſed of L. 100 Scots, and upwards, of valued rent; of theſe four do not reſide in the pariſh. There is a conſiderable number of ſmaller heritors, poſſeſſed of ſingle farms, or ploughgates of land, and a great many portioners. Several good houſes have been built by different heritors within theſe 20 years. The whole pariſh is divided into 101 ploughgates. Theſe are very unequal, both in value and extent. No heritor or tenant occupies more arable land than he can labour eaſily with 1 plough. There is 1 moor farm, or rather 2 or 3 united, which is very extenſive, and rents at L. 130 a-year. A few farms are rented at from L. 50 to L. 70, but the pariſh is generally parcelled into much ſmaller farms.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Stipend, &c.—There are 3 houſes for public worſhip in the pariſh, all of them ſituated at the town of Strathaven, which is far from being centrical. In the year 1772, the pariſh-church was removed from a fine elevated ſituation in the church-yard, and rebuilt in a low damp place, contrary to the minds of the great body of the people. The veneration which they had for the ancient fabric, the place where their fathers had long worſhipped, the incommodiouſneſs of the new houſe, without ſeats, and the inhabitants of the town being refuſed their proper proportion of it, determined them to ſet on foot a ſubſcription for a chapel of eaſe. A decent houſe was accordingly built, and conveniently fitted up in 1776. While the houſe was building, ſeveral miniſters of the preſbytery of Relief came and preached at a tent, with whoſe eloquence the people were

were ſo charmed, that they no longer thought of a chapel of eaſe, but of a Relief meeting-houſe. Beſides this, there is an Antiburgher meeting-houſe, which was built about the year 1766*. About the one half of the inhabitants of the town, and almoſt two-thirds of the country part of the pariſh, ſtill adhere to the Eſtabliſhed Church. The reſt are either diſſenters of different denominations, or make no religious profeſſion of any kind. The Relief congregation is numerous, but it is partly made up from the neighbouring pariſhes of Glasford, Stonehouſe, and Kilbride. The Antiburgher congregation is made up in the ſame way; but though of longer ſtanding than the other, is much ſmaller. There are ſtill a few of the old Cameronians in the pariſh. Inſtead of worſhipping in the fields, as formerly, they now have a meeting-houſe in the neighbouring pariſh of Loudon, to which they occaſionally reſort. The obſervations of the worthy clergyman of this church are fully verified here. "Diviſions which were formed in anger redound to the increaſe of knowlege and forbearance; time moderates the fierceneſs of wrath; the multitude of ſects abates their animoſity; principle is reſpected, miſtakes are pardoned, and they are drawn together again by the bonds of humanity."—The Duke of Hamilton is patron.—The ſtipend

* To counteract ſeceding principles, and to accomodate the remote parts of the pariſh with a houſe for public worſhip, Mr William Gilmour, preacher of the goſpel, who had long been catechiſt in the pariſh, began about the year 1777, to build a chapel in a convenient place, between four and five miles diſtant from the pariſh-church. He died about the beginning of the year 1780, ſhortly after the intended chapel, manſe, and ſchoolmaſter's houſe were rooſed in, leaving his whole eſtate, which was conſiderable, for endowing the chapel, and other pious uſes with in the pariſh. But his will, or rather wills, (for there were ſix of them, and all holograph,) were found to be ſo perplexed that the heir at law thought fit to ſeize upon the eſtate, and the validity of the wills has never yet been brought to a trial. Thus, the good man's purpoſes have been defeated by not employing a man of buſineſs to write his will.

is 6 chalders of victual, L. 600 Scots in money, and 90 merks for communion-elements; all of which has hitherto been paid by one hand. The glebe was originally 4 acres, but has been twice cut up with turnpike roads in the courſe of the laſt 7 years; ſo that it is now rendered of little value to poſſeſs, but might be turned to account by feuing it for houſe ſteadings and gardens. The manſe is large and commodious, but having been ill built at firſt, is frequently ſtanding in need of repairs. Beſides the miniſter, there is a catechiſt or aſſiſtant preacher, who enjoys a benefice of 500 merks a-year, mortified by Ann Ducheſs of Hamilton in 1710. The late Mr William Gilmour, above mentioned, left money for raiſing it to L. 40 Sterling; but, like his other benefactions, it has not yet taken effect.

Schools, Poor, &c.—The pariſh ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of 200 merks, a ſchool-room, a dwelling-houſe, and a ſmall garden. He teaches Engliſh, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, and writing. The wages are, for Engliſh 1 s. 2 d. a-quarter, and for the other branches of education, 1 s. 8 d. The average number of ſcholars for the whole year is 60. There is a private ſchool in the town equally numerous. The pariſh ſchoolmaſter is commonly precentor, ſeſſion-clerk, and clerk to the pariſh-meetings. There are always 2, ſometimes 3 ſchools in remote parts of the pariſh.—Moſt of the poverty to be found here may be traced to the uſe of tea, tobacco, and whiſky. Theſe luxuries are not only too expenſive for people in narrow circumſtances, but the conſtant uſe of them begets habits very unfavourable to health and induſtry. In this part of the country, the price of labour always bears ſuch a proportion to the neceſſaries of life, as that the ſober and induſtrious may not only earn preſent ſubſiſtence, but may lay up ſomething againſt the evil day. There are ſome indeed born in poverty, with ſuch weak and ſickly conſtitutions as to be unable to work,

and

and others, whom age or diſeaſe, or calamity, has reduced to want; theſe no doubt are peculiarly entitled to relief. But the proviſion for ſuch as become poor through ſloth, or drunkenneſs or ſenſuality, or vain expenſe, ought to be very ſcanty. The average number of poor upon the pariſh roll, for the laſt 10 years, has been from 50 to 60. The funds for their ſupport, are, the intereſt of L. 500 Sterling of ſtock, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* the mortcloth money, which uſually amounts to about L. 14 a-year, a ſmall ſum ariſing from the proclamation of marriages, and ringing of the church bell at funerals, and an aſſeſſment upon the pariſh. The heritors and kirk-ſeſſion meet half-yearly, at Candlemas and Lammas, and proportion the aſſeſſment. It is laid, the one half upon the heritors, according to their valued rent, and the other half upon houſeholders, according to their ſuppoſed circumſtances. For ſome years paſt it has amounted to L. 100 Sterling a-year. The penſioners are paid monthly by the collector, who has a ſmall ſalary for his trouble *.

Antiquities, Names of Places, &c.—A Roman road or cauſeway, can be traced for ſeveral miles on the ſouth ſide of

* Perhaps it would be better to pay them oftener, and to give them part of their allowance in meal. Before they can be admitted, they muſt apply by petition at one of the half yearly meetings, and make an aſſignation of all their effects to the pariſh. Of theſe an inventory is taken, and they are ſold after their death.—The collections made in the pariſh church are allowed for exigencies.—There are two ſmall mortifications for paying ſchool-wages, and purchaſing Bibles and catechiſms, for the children of the poor. Beſides theſe funds, the incorporated trades, (of which there are four in the town,) have each of them a box as it is called, out of which they make diſtributions among their indigent and diſtreſſed members. The calamity which aroſe from the failure of crop 1782, was greatly alleviated, by their laying out part of their ſtock in the purchaſe of grain, which they ſold at (and in ſome caſes under) prime coſt.

Strathaven was once a conſiderable thoroughfare. But owing to the injudicious manner in which the road from Hamilton has been conducted, it is now almoſt deſerted, and the toll levied upon it is ſcarcely ſufficient to keep it in repair. The rage for ſtraight lines which prevailed about 30 years ago, made the truſtees carry it over all the heights, though it might have been ſhortened conſiderably by carrying it in a more level direction. A new turnpike road between Glaſgow and Dumfries, by Muirkirk and Sanquhar, which was begun in 1790, and is now almoſt completed, likewiſe paſſes through this pariſh, and croſſes the other at the town of Strathaven. But this road does ſtill leſs credit to the conductors of it than the former. A rage for crooked lines, for carrying it through ſwamps and moraſſes, for cutting down heights, and making mound bridges acroſs vallies, has made them almoſt uniformly deviate from the ſhorteſt and moſt level line of direction between the points ſpecified in the act of Parliament. Theſe follies muſt be attended with very ſerious conſequences to travellers, if ever this road comes to be much frequented. By ſtraying off the metalled part of the road in a dark night, or when the ground happens to be covered with ſnow, a rider may loſe his horſe in a ſwamp; and the mound bridges are no leſs dangerous, if not ſtrongly railed in. It was impoſſible, indeed, to avoid ſwampy ground between this pariſh and Muirkirk; but to go round in queſt of a moraſs between Glaſgow and Strathaven is altogether unaccountable. In conſequence of deviating ſo much from the proper line of direction, this road has coſt three times the ſum at which it was eſtimated, when application was made for the act of Parliament to carry it into execution: And only a few miles of it were made, when the truſtees were under the neceſſity of applying for another act to enable them to borrow more money, and impoſe heavier toll-

duties. Theſe are extremely high. A perſon riding a horſe from Strathaven to Glaſgow, which is only 16 miles, pays 5½d. a ſingle-horſe cart pays 8d. and a four wheeled chaiſe 3s. 2d. a heavier duty than is paid in any part of Scotland, for travelling the ſame length of road *. There are three bridges over the Avon in this pariſh. The firſt was built by Ann Ducheſs of Hamilton about the beginning of this century, and is now on the line of the Muirkirk road. The other two have been built ſince, partly by the county, and partly by the pariſh. The ſtatute labour is commuted at the rate of 12s. upon the ploughgate of land, and from 1s. to 2s. upon houſeholders. This fund will ſoon put the pariſh roads, and the bridges over the ſmaller ſtreams, in excellent repair, as materials are every where eaſy to be found.

Antiquities, Names of Places, &c.—A Roman road or cauſeway, can be traced for ſeveral miles on the ſouth ſide of

* To remedy ſuch abuſes, no road-bill ought to be allowed to be brought into Parliament till it has been printed and circulated, for ſix months at leaſt, in the county or counties through which the propoſed road is to paſs,—ſurveyors invited by advertiſement in the newſpapers, to aſcertain by menſuration the ſhorteſt and moſt level line between the points fixed upon in the bill,—and contractors to give in eſtimates, according to which they are ready to undertake the making of the road. Had theſe regulations been adopted long ago, a deal of private jobbing had been prevented, in this neighbourhood at leaſt, much money ſaved to the public, and individuals ſecured againſt having their properties cut up more than once on account of the ſame road. But it is hoped, that Government will ſoon take the management of the turnpikes into their hands. They would produce a great revenue; and by employing the military upon the roads in time of peace, the price of labour would be kept moderate, the rapid rife of which, in this part of the country, is entirely owing to the making of roads. The ſoldiery too, by ſuch laborious employment, would become more hardy and leſs debauched, and conſequently leſs hurtful to the morals of their fellow citizens.

of the Avon. On the ſame ſide of the river, there are 3 chapels named after different ſaints, which were probably places of worſhip, where the clergy belonging to the neighbouring abbey of Leſmahagoe, officiated at times for the benefit of the people, before this diſtrict was erected into a pariſh. An honeſt man, who happened to dig up ſome human bones near one of theſe chapels a while ago, remarked, that the people in old times had been much about the ſame ſize as at preſent.—The town of Strathaven was erected into a burgh of barony in the year 1450, with the uſual privileges, and had an extenſive commonty; all of which has long ago become private property. It has a weekly market, and a number of annual fairs; but having no public funds, has no other magiſtracy than a baron bailie appointed by the Duke of Hamilton. This pariſh was anciently a part of the eſtate of Douglas, which being forfeited in the reign of James I. continued in the hands of the Crown till the year 1456, when it was erected into a barony in favour of Andrew Stuart, grandſon of Murdoch Duke of Albany, who was at that time created Lord Avendale, and made warden of the eaſt marches towards England. He built the caſtle of Avendale; and upon the acceſſion of James III. was made Chancellor of Scotland. Andrew ſecond Lord Avendale, having a feud with ſome of the neighbouring barons, and wiſhing to live at a diſtance from them, exchanged the barony of Avendale with Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, for the barony of Ochiltree in Ayrſhire, in the year 1534, which is ratified by an act of Parliament in 1543; and Andrew Stuart allowed the ſtyle of Ochiltree, with the precedency of Avendale. It would appear, that Lord Caſtleſtuart, of the kingdom of Ireland, conſiders himſelf the repreſentative of this family, as he is now claiming the title of Lord Ochiltree. By the imprudence of Sir James Hamilton, the barony of Avendale ſoon came into the hands of his brother, the Earl of Arran, and has continued

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in the family of Hamilton ever ſince. The caſtle of Avendale ſtands upon a rocky eminence at the town of Strathaven, near a ſmall water called Pomilion, which falls into the Avon about a mile below. It was ſurrounded by a ſtrong wall, with turrets at certain diſtances, and the entrance was ſecured by a draw-bridge. This, and the caſtle of Arran, were alternately the reſidence of Ann Ducheſs of Hamilton, during the uſurpation of Oliver Cromwell. This worthy Lady always remembered the attachment ſhown by her tenants and vaſſals in the days of her adverſity, and paid an annual viſit to this place at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, till ſhe was prevented by the infirmities of old age. She died in the year 1716, after which the caſtle of Avendale was no longer kept in repair.—The names of ſome places, ſuch as Kirkwood, Hawkwood, ſeem to indicate, that this diſtrict was once adorned with woods; of which there are no longer any veſtiges, but what are common every where, large trunks of oak and birch buried in deep moraſſes. The names of places are all Engliſh, with a very few exceptions, ſuch as Kype, Carnduff, Drumclog. This laſt place is famous for a rencounter between the Covenanters and a party of dragoons, in which the latter were defeated. On Sunday the 1ſt of June 1679, the Covenanters had aſſembled for divine ſervice at Drumclog, to the number of about 300 armed men. That they might not be ſurpriſed by a ſudden attack, they had placed a watch on Loudon-hill, a remarkable eminence about a mile diſtant, commanding a view of the whole country. Captain Graham* of Claverhouſe, afterward Viſcount of Dundee, being apprized

* This gentleman was extremely obnoxious to the covenanters. A reſpectable heritor in this pariſh, whoſe grandfather was at Drumclog, remembers to have heard him tell, that he lay behind a hillock, and fired eight ſhots at Claverhouſe. On the grave-ſtones of the people who fell on this and other occaſions, ſome of which are in rhyme, he is deſigned *Bloody Graham of Claverhouſe.*

prized of the meeting, marched, the morning of the ſame day, from Hamilton with his cavalry. They were ſpied by the watch ſhortly after they paſſed Strathaven *, who ran and informed their brethren of the approach of the enemy. After prayer, by their miniſter Mr William Hamilton, who acted likewiſe as commanding officer, they drew up in order, took their ſtation, and gave the ſoldiers a reception very different from what they expected. Thirty of them were killed: Captain Graham had his horſe ſhot under him, and made a very narrow eſcape. The Covenanters loſt only a few men. Their horſes were a great incumbrance to the dragoons, the place of action being almoſt ſurrounded with ſwampy ground. Had the Covenanters purſued their advantage, it is believed that they might have cut the whole party to pieces. The ſucceſs of the Covenanters, on this occaſion, encouraged them to muſter an army of 8000 men, about three weeks afterward, at Bothwell bridge, and diſpute that paſſage with the King's forces, commanded by the Duke of Monmouth. Here, however, they were defeated with great ſlaughter, and 1200 of them taken priſoners. After the battle, the Duke marched his army into this pariſh, with the view, as was apprehended, of revenging the affair of Drumclog. But after remaining for a few days, during which the cavalry ate up moſt of the grain in the country, the army retired without doing any miſchief. The men were under good diſcipline, and the Duke behaved, in every reſpect, with a generoſity becoming his high rank.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—This pariſh is well watered, and needs only incloſing and ſhelter to make it an excellent

* Strathaven is 7 miles from Hamilton, and Drumclog between 5 and 6 from Strathaven; ſo that the dragoons had a march of more than 12 miles before the engagement.

lent grazing country. Moſt of the low grounds have indeed been incloſed with hedge and ditch, but there are very few fences in the pariſh. The graſſy ſoil is inimical to young thorns, and few people can be at the pains to weed them often enough. Perhaps it would be better to plant hedges of beech or laryx. Till the lands are incloſed with ſufficient fences, the farmers cannot well turn their attention to green crops, a thing much to be wiſhed. For want of theſe, their cattle are fed on oat ſtraw and coarſe hay for almoſt ſix months in the year. The conſequence is, that they are quite dried up and emaciated before they get upon the graſs in the month of May; and every body knows that cattle muſt be in good plight, before they can yield milk either of good quality, or in any conſiderable quantity. Shelter is alſo much wanted here. The Duke of Hamilton's eſtate in the pariſh conſiſts of upwards of 11,400 acres: Were two or three hundred of theſe laid out in belts of plantation, as has been done in the pariſh of Hamilton, it would both beautify the ſcenery and mend the climate. The ſmall plantations which have been made by ſome reſiding heritors, and the few trees which are about almoſt every farm-houſe, ſhow that plantations will thrive here. Conſiderable improvements have been made of late years, by draining the wet grounds, and ſowing them with Poliſh oats. A deep moraſs in the neighbourhood of Strathaven, which was not worth a ſhilling the acre, has thus been brought to let at a guinea. The grievance which the farmers here moſt complain of is the tax upon ſaddle-horſes. Few of them can afford to keep a horſe for the purpoſe of riding; yet if they mount a labouring horſe on Sunday to go to church, they are charged. The rigorous execution of this act has done more towards ſouring their minds againſt Government, than all the ſeditious pamphlets that have been publiſhed.

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NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF MARYTON,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES WILSON.

Boundaries, Eſtates, Extent, Air, &c.

THIS pariſh is bounded on the N. by the river of Southeſk and the baſon or back ſands of Montroſe; on the S. by the ſea and the pariſh of Lunan. There are only now two eſtates here, Old Montroſe and Dyſart. Old Montroſe was the property of the great family of Montroſe, till the reign of Charles II. We then find it in the poſſeſſion of the famous Earl of Middleton. Since that time it has paſſed through the hands of a great many, and is now the property of Sir David Carnegie, Baronet, of Southeſk. From its name, one might be apt to imagine, that there had been a town here before the preſent town of Montroſe was built; but of this there remains no tradition. Bonnyton, which is now joined to Old Montroſe, was the ſeat of the family of Wood. It is only within theſe few

few years paſt that the remains of the old caſtle fell down. It had been regularly fortified, with a complete ditch around it, which ſtill remains entire. Dyſart belongs to Thomas Carnegie, Eſq; of Craigo, and was purchaſed not many years ago by his family. None of the heritors reſide.—This pariſh contains altogether from 2500 to 3000 acres of land. The valued rent is L. 3000 Scots, and the real rent about L. 1700 or L. 1800 Sterling. The lands in general are not high rented. In the greateſt part of this pariſh the lands lie very low, almoſt on a level with the ſea; this, together with the fogs that riſe from the baſon of Montroſe, makes the air damp. This pariſh often, eſpecially in the ſpring months, when the eaſterly winds prevail is involved in a cloud, when it is bright ſun-ſhine a mile or two to the weſtward. Agues were very common here before the low grounds were drained; but ſince that event took place, the people are in general healthy, and many of them live to a good old age. It were to be wiſhed that the lower claſſes could be prevailed upon to inoculate their children for the ſmall-pox; but no arguments will perſuade them to lay aſide their abſurd prejudices. If this mode were adopted, the lives of many children might be ſaved to the community.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls was then 633. This pariſh is not very populous, their being no villages in it, nor manufactures of any kind. The whole pariſh is divided into large farms; and theſe requiring only a ſtated number of people for their cultivation, any increaſe that may ariſe muſt go to other places for employment. Being ſo near the port of Montroſe, a great many of the young men go to ſea. There are no records of the number of inhabitants before the preſent incumbent was ſettled in 1778. In 1779, the number of

of people above 15 years of age was 369; in 1786, a period of 7 years, there were 367 people above 15 years of age, and 142 under 15, in all 509. In January 1793, another period of 7 years, the ſtate of the population is as follows:

Under 10 years of age,	-	-	139
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	92
—— 20 and 30,	-	-	81
—— 30 and 40,	-	-	71
—— 40 and 50,	-	-	70
—— 50 and 60,	-	-	28
—— 60 and 70,	-	-	30
—— 70 and 80,	-	-	15
—— 80 and 90,	-	-	3
	Total,		529

The increaſe ſince 1786 is 20; and the cauſe of it is, ſome of the principal tenants having ſubſet part of their lands. The average of the number of baptiſms, as nearly as can be aſcertained for 14 years paſt, is annually 18; marriages 5; and burials 12; but it is to be obſerved, that the regiſter of baptiſms, burials and marriages, is not ſo regularly kept as formerly, owing to the tax upon the regiſtration, trifling as it is. The common people, not being compelled to pay it, rather chooſe to ſave 3 d. than to have either a baptiſm, burial or marriage, inſerted in the regiſter.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The ſoil in this pariſh is various, according to the ſituation. Upon the low grounds of Old Montroſe it is a ſtrong deep clay, commonly called in Scotland Carſe land, admirably adapted for wheat. There is a ſmall ridge of hills that runs through the pariſh from

E. to W. and divides Old Montroſe from Dyſart. The ſoil upon theſe riſing grounds is in general a very fine loam, which bears excellent crops of barley, turnips and graſs. Upon the lands of Dyſart, as they lie higher, the ſoil is of a lighter quality than Old Montroſe.—This pariſh is in a pretty high ſtate of cultivation, and would have been much more ſo, were it not for the pernicious effects of long leaſes and low rents, leaſes let many years ago, and many years of them ſtill to run. Improvement of land on a large ſcale, and to extent, did not take place in this part of the country till of late years, when the old leaſes were at an end, and the rents were raiſed. Farmers, like men of other profeſſions, muſt be ſpurred on to induſtry by neceſſity. Thoſe who poſſeſſed the old leaſes found that they could live as their fathers had done before them, and were ſatisfied with the day of ſmall things. If they got a livelihood with eaſe, they were not anxious for wealth, when accompanied with exertion. It would be injuſtice, however, not to acknowledge, that ſome of the tenants who poſſeſs the old leaſes are now beginning to go on with ſpirit and induſtry: but that was not the caſe, till they were ſhown a good example; and perhaps, but from neceſſity, that example would never have been ſhown them. There is much fine land in this pariſh let at 10 s. the acre, and even under that; and yet the tenants are not more wealthy than their neighbours, who pay 30 s. the acre for land of no better quality. What can be the reaſon of this, but that the former are not ſo induſtrious as the latter, owing to long leaſes and low rents. Great as the improvements are, which have been made in this part of Scotland, within theſe few years paſt, yet the land is by no means arrived at that value to which it is capable of being raiſed. —There are two modes followed in cropping the ſtrong clay land in this pariſh. The one is firſt a fallow, with 50

bolls

bolls of lime ſhells to the acre, and well dunged; the land is then ſown with wheat. The next crop is peaſe or beans; after that barley and graſs ſeeds, generally red clover; 1 year in graſs, which is cut and given to the horſes in the houſe. After the graſs, oats; then a fallow again, and ſo on. The other mode is firſt a fallow, then wheat; peaſe or beans after the wheat; then barley; then oats. After the oats, a fallow, and ſo on. There are likewiſe two modes followed in cropping the lighter ſoils. One is, the land is made free of weeds, and the ſoil reduced; it is then limed and dunged, and ſown with turnips in the drill; after the turnips, barley and graſs-ſeeds; two years in graſs, the firſt cut for hay, the ſecond for paſture; then a crop of oats; after this turnips, &c. according to the above rotation. The other mode is, the land having been 4 or 5 years in graſs is limed, and broken up for oats; after the oats barley, then a green crop; after that barley and graſs-ſeeds, when it is laid down for paſture, and remains in that ſtate 4 or 5 years. The average returns of an acre are, wheat 10 bolls, barley 8 bolls, oats 8, beans from 8 to 14, peaſe from 4 to 10. The grain in general is of a very fine quality. An acre of turnips is worth from L. 4 to L. 5 Sterling. A good deal of flax was formerly raiſed in this pariſh, but that practice is now much given up, it having been found by experience not to be profitable. The huſbandry is almoſt all carried on by horſes, there not being above one oxen plough in the pariſh. Ploughs, with 2 ſtrong horſes in each, are univerſally uſed. The tenants breed a good many of their horſes themſelves. The farmers, upon the lighter ſoils, likewiſe rear a number of black cattle; but the ſtrong land not being well adapted for paſture, the tenants keep but few cattle through the ſummer. In order to conſume the ſtraw, and make dung for the farm, they either purchaſe cattle in the autumn and ſet them

them off in the ſpring, or take into their ſtraw yards ca tle from the graziers, who pay ſo much a-head for them according to their ſize *.

Advantages.—This pariſh derives much advantage fro its vicinity to the town of Montroſe, where the farmer ha always a ready market for every thing that he can raiſe and where in return he can purchaſe whatever he want for the uſe of his farm or his family. Another ver great advantage is the open navigation from Montroſe t Old Montroſe, where coals are landed for fuel to the inha bitants, and likewiſe great quantities of lime both from Sunderland and Lord Elgin's lime-works, for manure. Veſſels of 50 or 60 tons burden can, at ſtream tides, land with eaſe at the harbour of Old Montroſe. A canal has been projected, and perhaps one day will be carried from thence to Brechin. This would complete the navigation between Brechin and Montroſe, and would of courſe not only

* *Price of Labour.*—The price of labour is very high. The wages of a common ploughman are from L. 8 to L. 10 Sterling a-year; a ſervant maid from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. A ſtout man will get from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2 for the harveſt; a woman from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s. The wages of a common labourer are 1 s. a-day. Yet notwithſtanding the high price of labour, the common people are not richer than formerly: Although their revenue be greater, they add nothing to their capital, ſeldom think of ſaving any thing to ſupport them in their old age. All is ſpent upon the back and the belly; they eat and drink better, and are better cloathed. The ploughman now deſpiſes the home-made ſuit of blue or grey, and all of the ſame piece: He comes to church on Sunday dreſſed in a coat of Engliſh cloath, a fancy veſt, corduroy breeches, white thread ſtockings, plated buckles, &c. All of them wear hats; not a Scotch bonnet is to be ſeen. The dreſs of the women is as much changed as that of the men. The country laſs makes her appearance at church, or a wedding, dreſſed in the manufactures of Mancheſter, Glaſgow, and Paiſley. Thus the improvement of the land is the enrichment of the kingdom, and the ſail could not be ſpread without the aſſiſtance of the plough.

only be of ſingular advantage to both theſe towns, but likewiſe to all the adjacent country *.

Maryton-Law.—Maryton-Law is a ſmall eminence ſituated upon a rock upon the top of one of the hills formerly mentioned. It is evidently artificial, and probably in former times has been either an alarm poſt, as it commands a great extent of country, or a place where the great family of Montroſe diſtributed juſtice to their vaſſals. From the top of it is one of the moſt beautiful proſpects in Scotland. To the north, (cloſe under the eye), is the rich and fertile country extending from Brechin to Montroſe, on both ſides of the river Southeſk, where are interſperſed a number of elegant gentlemens ſeats; a fine view of both towns, with the baſon and harbour of Montroſe, and in the back ground are the Grampian hills. To the eaſt is the well cultivated pariſh of Craig, with a great expanſe of the German

* *Fiſheries.*—In the river Southeſk, which is the northern boundary of this pariſh, there is great plenty of fiſh, ſalmon, griliſe, ſea-trout, finnocks, and a variety of river-trout. In the month of May, a prodigious quantity of beautiful clear ſmall trouts, called ſmouts, make their appearance. They are evidently the ſalmon-fry that were ſpawned in the autumn before, and are then going down the river to the ſea, where they arrive at maturity, A vaſt variety of aquatic birds frequent the baſon, or, as it is commonly called, the back-ſands of Montroſe, eſpecially in the winter ſeaſon; ſuch as wild geeſe, ducks of various ſorts, and in amazing numbers; a variety of gulls, cormorants, ſea-magpies, golden-eyes, curlieus, herons, &c. &c The wild geeſe arrive in great flocks about the end of October, and generally remain till March. They frequent the fields in the low grounds through the day, where they feed upon the wheat-ſtubble in autumn, and the green wheat in winter: They always return to the baſon at night. The ducks, on the contrary, remain in the baſon through the day; but when the night falls, they go to the land, and feed upon the barley-ſtubble fields. Both the geeſe and ducks are very fine birds for eating. In ſevere ſtorms, of long continuance, there are likewiſe ſome ſwans in the baſon, but they do not remain long. There are great plenty of partridges in this pariſh, and ſome quails, but they are rare: Hares are ſcarce, there being little cover.

man ocean. To the ſouth is Lunan bay, the red head of Arbroath, and the proſpect is terminated by the frith of Forth, and the coaſt of Lothian.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The manſe was built 4 years ago, and is one of the beſt finiſhed in the county. The ſtipend is 76 bolls of meal, 45 bolls of barley, and L. 19 Sterling in money. The glebe conſiſts of about 6 acres of very good land. The King is patron.—The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about L. 5 Sterling a year; and as the pariſh is ſmall, his perquiſites are not conſiderable. A new church was built laſt year, which is both elegant and commodious, and to the praiſe of the heritors be it ſpoken, not a farthing demanded for ſeat-rents; a practiſe by no means common in Scotland, but highly worthy of imitation.—The poor are maintained from the intereſt of a fund of about L. 500 Sterl. and the weekly collections, which are very trifling, owing to the greatneſs of the poors funds, the people not being very apt to give, when they know that there is little occaſion for their charity. Theſe great funds are a loſs to any pariſh. They are the cauſe of a number of poor coming into it, when they know that they will be maintained. They tend to make the lower claſſes greedy and lazy, and to live beyond their incomes, and very careleſs about ſaving any thing to provide for a family, or to ſupport them in old age. They likewiſe put a ſtop to that charity among the common people, which is the bond of affection between man and man, and which tends more than any thing elſe to humanize the mind.

Manners.—The people of this pariſh, except 5 or 6 individuals, are all of the Eſtabliſhed religion, and very regular in their attendance on public worſhip. They are quiet and inoffenſive, and mind their own buſineſs; and as there is but one alehouſe in the pariſh, they are in general ſober, not being much led into temptation.

NUM-

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF KIRKNEWTON,

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH).

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CAMERON.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

UNDER this title are comprehended two parishes, Kirknewton and East Calder, now within the bounds of the presbytery of Edinburgh, though formerly the latter belonged to the presbytery of Linlithgow, and was anciently called Calder Cleir * and Calder Clericus. The union of these two parishes took place 40 years ago. A new church and manse, both very decent buildings, were then

* The Earl of Morton takes his title of dignity from the lands of Mortoune, lying in this parish, and belonging to his Lordship, as appears from the minutes of the Scotch Parliament 14th March 1457—8, and from an instrument there referred to, in which are these words: "Tunc vero dictus Dominus Cancellarius, (Episcopus Brechen), declaravit dictum Dominum de Dalkeith, non intitulari debere in dicto comitatu pro terris de Mortoune, in dominio de *Niddisdale* existent; sed pro terris de Mortoune in Calder Cleir jacent."

then erected in a new and centrical ſituation. Calder, according to one etymology, ſeems to ſignify water and wood, from *coille*, "wood," and *dor*, "water." The name Kirknewton appears to be derived from a village ſo called near the old church, and about a quarter of a mile from the new one. The pariſh is about 4 miles broad, and 6 long from N. to S. On the N. it is bounded by the river Amond, which falls into the frith of Forth at Cramond; and on the S. it is waſhed by the water of Leith, which diſcharges itſelf into the ſea at Leith. There is plenty of lime here of excellent quality, in different parts of the pariſh, which is carried to many miles diſtance all around. Several country gentlemen have lately formed an aſſociation, and opened a ſubſcription, in order to explore the ground in this and ſome neighbouring pariſhes, in ſearch of coal. This ſearch is now making on the lands of Leith-head here, belonging to Mr Swanſon. If this laudable and patriotic purpoſe ſucceed, it will prove a great benefit to this part of the country. But as good coal is at a conſiderable diſtance, it is hoped this diſadvantage may be remedied in another way, as a canal is now projected and intended to paſs through this pariſh between Edinburgh and Glaſgow, which will provide theſe cities, and all the adjacent country with plenty of coal, limeſtone, iron, &c. of the beſt quality. An excellent coal, which is moſt generally uſed here, is brought from Benhaar, on the Glaſgow road, 15 miles diſtant. Coal of an inferior quality is to be got in great plenty at the mines of Blackburn, Bathgate, and other places, at the diſtance only of 5, 6, and 7 miles to the S. and W. The price paid at the mine for coal is generally 4½d. a load, 6 of which are a common cart-load, from twelve to fourteen hundred weight, drawn ſometimes by one, and ſometimes by two horſes. Such a cart-load from Benhaar coſts 7s. Sterling. The appearance of the pariſh

is

is level and fertile towards the N. on the S. it is hilly, but not rocky or ſteeply mountainous.

Agriculture.—The green hills afford good ſheep-paſture, and in ſeveral places might yield excellent green crops of potatoes, turnip, &c. if properly cultivated for this purpoſe. Theſe crops begin now to be more generally raiſed than formerly, and the farmers to be better reconciled to them, though ſome of the lower claſſes and more ignorant are ſtill averſe to theſe valuable improvements, being wedded to their old abſurd and unſkilful practices. But the frequent failures and loſſes that attend new ſchemes attempted by more ſpeculative and opulent farmers, to them appear ſufficient reaſon for not too raſhly changing the plans and practices of their forefathers, and giving up a ſure, though moderate profit, for the uncertain hopes of unexperienced theoriſts. The culture of field-turnip and cabbage is but lately introduced here; and the Earl of Morton, who of 63 ploughgates in the pariſh poſſeſſes 28, ſeems at preſent very anxious to promote and encourage this plan of agriculture among his tenants. The rent of land, excluſive of the pooreſt outfield, is from 10 s. to L. 2 an acre. The Engliſh plough, with 2 horſes, is moſt generally uſed, though ſome farmers ſtill prefer the old Scotch plough, with 4 horſes and a driver. Of late the rent of land is greatly increaſed. Farms that about 20 years ago let at 10 s. an acre, are now more than 20; and thoſe which even 6 years ago paid L. 20 of rent, now let at L. 30. But the plan of huſbandry is much better now than formerly, and the land hence greatly improved in value. The real rent of the pariſh within theſe few years, has conſequently been raiſed ſeveral hundred pounds. It cannot at preſent, for particular reaſons, be exactly aſcertained. The rotation of crops is variable according to the va-

rious ſoils. The moſt common, in the richer grounds, is ſummer-fallow, wheat, peaſe, beans, barley, oats. Of late it has been found, that both wheat and barley have ſucceeded as well, this after turnip, and that after cabbage, as after a ſummer-fallow, when the ground is properly dreſſed. Rye-graſs and clover are ſown with wheat, oats, flax, but moſt commonly with barley. Wheat has lately been introduced into the moors with promiſing ſucceſs, where it never was ſeen or attempted before. A great deal of milk, butter, cheeſe, eggs, poultry, veal, is daily exported and ſold in the Edinburgh market. The real produce of the pariſh cannot be aſcertained, as there is a great importation as well as exportation, chiefly to and from Edinburgh, of which no diſtinct account has ever been kept *.

Climate,

* *Labour and Wages.*—The want of cottagers and day-labourers is often ſmartly felt by the farmer, eſpecially in harveſt; and if their place were not ſupplied by the Highlanders, upon whom they ſo much depend for cutting down their crops, they would be reduced to the uſe of the ſcythe, or ſome ſuch more expeditious method than that of the ſickle. The firſt threſhing machine in this pariſh was erected by Mr Waugh of Eaſter Newton. The uſe of theſe has lately become general in this country. The common wages of a day-labourer, for a man, are from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. in ſummer, and 10 d. in winter a-day; for a woman, 6 d.; for an hired man-ſervant, from L. 6 to L. 10 a-year, with a pair of ſhoes, and a cart of coals, in the half year. If he live in his own houſe, he has $6\frac{1}{2}$ bolls of meal, beſides L. 1, 6 s. for what is called kitchen-money. (This is an allowance of money, at the rate of 6 d. a-week, in place of milk, butter, beer, *&c.*) He has alſo ſometimes a cow's graſs, with as much ground as may ſow a firlot of barley. The wages of a maid-ſervant are generally L. 3 a-year. Maſons and bricklayers receive from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. a-day; ſlaters, 2 s. 6 d.; tailors, 8 d. with victuals. About 50 years ago butter ſold at 4 d. a-pound, a good lamb at 3 s.; beef $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 2 d. The poultry in rentals was valued at half-a-merk. All theſe articles are now more than doubled in price. The people, however, in general, enjoy a competent ſhare of the comforts of life, and every man who is able to work, and who is induſtrious, may decently maintain himſelf and a family. In the year 1782 much diſtreſs would have enſued to the lower people, had it not been prevented by a liberal contribution of the heritors for their relief.

Climate, Diſeaſes.—The air is remarkably pure and healthy. A native of this pariſh died in the neighbourhood ſome months ago, aged 106, having followed his uſual occupation in the fields, and retained the full poſſeſſion of his mental faculties till a few days before his death. The diſeaſes chiefly prevalent are the rheumatiſm and fevers, occaſioned by the poorer people living in cold damp houſes, and reſting after labour in wet clothes. People of better ſtation are not ſo much liable to theſe diſtempers. When theſe fevers once begin, they often ſpread far and wide, as the people, from miſtaken notions of ſympathy and charity, crowd the houſe, and even the bed-room of the ſick, which is kept as cloſe often as poſſible. Theſe catch and ſpread the infection, thinking that they do nothing amiſs, and that no harm will befal them but by the ſpecial decree and interpoſition of Heaven.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the population in 1755 was 1157.

Souls in 1786,	942	Houſe carpenters,	4
— in 1792,	812	Tailors, -	4
Average of births,	26	Smiths, -	4
—— of deaths,	19	Single male ſervants,	67
Inhabited houſes,	175	Ditto female ſervants,	42
Males, -	395	Farmers, - -	50
Females, -	417		
Under 6 years,	113		
Students in divinity,	2	Horſes, - -	261
Bachelors keeping houſe,	21	Black cattle, -	533
Sectaries, -	277	Sheep, -	1563
Souls in two villages,	180	Ploughs, -	64
Maſons, -	4	Carts - -	85

The cauſe of depopulation here is chiefly owing to the near attraction of Edinburgh, to a monopoly of farms, and the uſe of two-horſe ploughs, (by which means the farmer works with about half the number of ſervants he formerly employed), and the laying down ſo much ground in graſs for hay, which, when the ſoil anſwers, is judged one of the moſt profitable crops. One cauſe of the uncommon number of ſectaries is, that a Burgher meeting-houſe was ſeveral years ago erected in the pariſh, and another of the Antiburgher kind on the borders of it, which at their firſt erection were much crowded; but which, however, have not gained ſeven proſelytes from the pariſh church for the laſt 7 years; they rather ſeem to be on the decline. Theſe eſtabliſhments muſt be a heavy burden upon poor people; but they are productive of worſe conſequences, in directly counteracting the deſign of Chriſtianity, which is to make men live together as brethren; and in ſupporting ſuperſtition and fanaticiſm, which are miſtaken by many for religion, and maintained with a violence and flaming zeal proportioned to the ignorance of their deluded votaries.

Stipend, School, Poor.—The ſtipend conſiſts of 105 bolls of victual, one half meal, and the other barley, with L. 48 Sterling of money, beſides a glebe of 7 acres good arable land, which has been incloſed by the preſent incumbent. The Duke of Buccleugh and the Earl of Morton, formerly the ſeparate patrons of Eaſt Calder and Kirknewton, are now vice-patrons of the pariſh.—The ſchool ſalary is L. 12 Sterling a-year, with L. 2 belonging to the ſeſſion-clerkſhip, together with the common perquiſites of baptiſms and marriages. The number of ſcholars is between 40 and 50. The children of poor parents are educated at the public expenſe. Some years ago, the ſchoolmaſter being, through

through age and infirmity, unable to officiate, the heritors contributed L. 9 Sterling a-year, with ſome other perquiſites, for his maintenance during life, and appointed another ſchoolmaſter.—The number of poor that regularly receive pariſh charity is 12, and their proportion is from 2 s. to 4 s. a-month, intended only as a help to thoſe who cannot entirely ſupport themſelves. The weekly collections, dues of mortcloths (palls), and a remainder of ſome funds which are now nearly exhauſted, at preſent ſupply this charity. It is often found neceſſary alſo to grant occaſional aſſiſtance to poor families in ſickneſs and want. No perſon in the pariſh has been ſuffered to beg publicly, in the memory of man. In ſummer, all who are able to work in the fields, generally find employment, and can live very comfortably on their wages; but in winter, the women, who can often find no employment but ſpinning, are not able to earn more than 3d. or 4d. a-day, as there are no manufactures in the pariſh. This is a real loſs in many reſpects, becauſe both the old and young, who are unfit for the common labour in the fields, might be employed in ſome buſineſs of manufacture with much advantage, both to themſelves and the public, and to the preventing of indolence and licentiouſneſs.

Manners.—The people in general are ſober and induſtrious, and that wild and gloomy fanaticiſm which formerly raged with ſuch turbulent, unhallowed zeal, ſeems now, except among very few, over the whole country, as well as here, to wear a milder and brighter aſpect, and the rancour of party ſpirit is daily abating, as alſo that rage of ſchiſm which once prevailed, ſo hurtful to the peace of ſociety, and to the intereſts of religion. More rational notions of religion are now entertained among all ſects, and the doctrines of faith and morality are not unhappily ſeparated,

rated, eſpecially among the middle ranks of the people. Theſe maintain much decency of character, with regard both to a religious deportment, and to honeſty of manners. They are emerging from the gloom of ignorance, rudeneſs and ſuperſtition, and as yet are happily ſtrangers to the vitious refinement, ſcepticiſm and licentiouſneſs, which, from the example of the metropolis, have lately much infeſted the neighbourhood. Some looſe and libertine principles, the poiſonous ſpawn of a falſe philoſophy and falſe patriotiſm, have recently corrupted the minds of half-learned witlings and ſmatterers in ſcience, who implicitly receive their opinions at ſecond-hand. From theſe they have been catched by many among the moſt ignorant, the obvious tendency of which is to deſtroy the foundations of all civil and eccleſiaſtical government. When the lower people ſhall have learned to copy the manners and principles of ſome of their ſuperiors, which they naturally do, the conſequences to ſociety muſt be fatal, as may be ſeen from the progreſs of modern refinement and philoſophy. "He that has eyes to ſee let him ſee."

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—Agriculture has lately made a rapid progreſs in this part of the country, and the appearance of the ground, particularly towards the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, which was formerly bare and barren, is now greatly altered both in ſoil and climate, by means of the improvements and thriving wood-plantations that ſhelter and adorn the higher parts. The beſt and moſt extenſive improver in this reſpect here, is Mr Maconochie of Meadow-bank, who has greatly beautified the more unfertile parts of his eſtate with complete incloſures for paſture, and with belts of plantation, variegated with every kind of wood ſuited to the ſoil. The roads and bridges are brought into good repair, and great improvements are daily making upon

upon them. The ſtatute labour is commuted at the rate of 18s. the ploughgate. The largeſt farms let at L. 150 and L. 200, and are generally incloſed, except the hilly ſheep-farms. There are 12 heritors, two only of whom reſide conſtantly in the pariſh, ſome of the reſt occaſionally. The valued rent is L. 3760 Scotch. From the manſe, a proſpect opens to the eye one of the richeſt and moſt beautiful to be ſeen in Scotland. On the eaſt it is terminated by a full and pictureſque view of Arthur's ſeat, the metropolis, and its venerable caſtle, which is on a level with the manſe, and which ſeems as if only about 5 or 6 miles diſtant. On the north appear the Ochil hills, the frith of Forth, a great part of Fife, and ſeveral of the coaſt towns; and on the ſouth ariſe the Pentland hills. From a riſing ground, a few yards diſtant from the manſe, a part of 13 counties may be ſeen, and a ſtretch of country of about 100 miles, almoſt from Berwick to Greenock. The great Glaſgow road from Edinburgh paſſes through the pariſh.—About 50 years ago, it was uſual for the moſt ſubſtantial farmers to appear at church and market in home-ſpun cloth and plaiden hoſe. Now their menial ſervants and cottagers are equipped in Engliſh broad cloth, ſilk and ſatin. This turn for finery is a great loſs to them, as they live up to their wages, notwithſtanding their being ſo high. Thus they enter into a married ſtate, with their whole ſubſtance upon their back, eſpecially women; and when ſickneſs, or any misfortune prevents their daily labour, they immediately ſink into the depth of poverty. It is generally obſerved, that the inhabitants of villages are more licentious and diſſipated, than thoſe who live in ſeparate and ſequeſtered hamlets, and are employed in agriculture. The almoſt univerſal uſe of tea and ſpirits, of an inferior quality, tends greatly to hurt both the health and morals of the lower people.—Some ſtone pillars in the form of a croſs, and appearances of Druidical

Druidical circles, are to be met with here; and from a co-
pious ſpring of excellent water near the manſe, ſeveral old
coins have been dug, the offerings preſented to its preſiding
genius.

Eminent Men.—The celebrated Dr Cullen was proprie-
tor of the eſtate of Ormiſton-hill; and he lies interred in
the church-yard of Kirknewton. The Doctor's great ta-
lents as a profeſſor, as a phyſician, and as a philoſopher,
are well known and univerſally acknowledged in every
part of the world. Other qualifications, however, he poſ-
ſeſſed in an eminent degree, though in theſe his fame has
not been ſo much extended. He was a great maſter in the
ſcientific branches of huſbandry; a conſummate botaniſt;
and poſſeſſed a full-formed and correct taſte in the fine arts.
Theſe attainments appeared conſpicuous in his operations
at Ormiſton-hill. In the year 1758, the Doctor, after fi-
niſhing his courſe of chymiſtry, delivered to a number of
his particular friends, and favourite pupils, nine lectures on
the ſubject of agriculture. In theſe few lectures, he, for
the firſt time, laid open the true principle concerning the
nature of ſoils, and the operation of manures. Theſe were
diſcoveries entirely his own, and which have ſince been
made known to the world by a variety of channels, though
without any notification of the ſource from whence they
proceeded. The juſtneſs of theſe principles he demonſtrated
by his practice on the lands of Ormiſton-hill, which, though
naturally of an ungrateful ſoil, rendered worſe by immemo-
rial bad management, and ſituated in an unfavourable cli-
mate, he raiſed in a few years to a ſurpriſing degree of
culture and fertility. Early in life he was a proficient in
botany, and was the firſt perſon in Scotland who underſtood
the Linnæan ſyſtem, and recommended the ſtudy of it to his
pupils, at a time when it met with much oppoſition from o-

thers.

thers. In his gardens and pleaſure grounds at Ormiſton-hill, he formed an extenſive collection of rare trees, ſhrubs, and herbaceous plants. The cultivation of theſe, and the accurate determination of their ſpecies, afforded him always an agreeable relaxation from the more ſerious ſtudies and labours of his profeſſion. He was likewiſe remarkable for his critical knowledge and correct judgment in architecture and painting. The hall of the Royal College of Phyſicians in Edinburgh is an example of the former, which was planned when he was Preſident, and according to his directions. The front of this building may be conſidered as the moſt chaſte and beautiful morſel of Greek architecture, that has yet appeared in Scotland. The acuteneſs of his eye, and of his mind, in diſcerning the beauties and blemiſhes in painting, was well known to his intimate friends. This talent rendered him a ſuperior judge in the diſpoſition of grounds, and in the arrangement of rural ornaments. When he firſt entered to the poſſeſſion of Ormiſton-hill, every thing about the place was in ſuch a ruinous ſtate, ſo comfortleſs and ſo unpromiſing, that he placed over the front door of the houſe, EST ULUBRIS: But, by great attention and good taſte, he ſoon made it a commodious and pleaſant reſidence. While he reſided here, he was acceſſible at all times to his neighbours, and teſtified the utmoſt readineſs to give his valuable advice to the poor *gratis* on every occaſion of diſtreſs; and attended to them as anxiouſly as to thoſe of the firſt rank in the realm, for whom he daily preſcribed. In this he ſeemed to be of the opinion of his famous predeceſſor Dr Boerhaave, who uſed to ſay, that the poor were his *beſt patients*, for God is their paymaſter.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF DRY'SDALE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN.)

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS HENDERSON.

Name, Situation, Extent, Rivers, Soil, Climate.

DRY'SDALE is obviouſly a corruption or contraction of *Dryfeſdale*; ſo called, from its lying partly on the banks of the rivulet Dryfe. The pariſh lies about the middle of Annandale, and is in 55° 08″ N. Lat. and 3° W. Long. It is about 7 miles long, from N. to S.; at the ſouthern extremity only a mile broad; at the centre about 6 miles; and at the northern end 3; exhibiting a ſurface of nearly 1100 acres The weſtern and ſouthern parts are generally flat, and cultivated. The upper or northern parts are hilly, and moſtly in paſture. There is nearly one half of the pariſh cultivated. The Annan, dividing it from Lochmaben, waſhes it on the W. and S. for upwards of 6 miles, abounding in rainy ſeaſons with excellent ſalmon, from the Solway Firth, to the ſupply of the Lockerbie,

Lochmaben

Lochmaben and Dumfries markets, and on ſome occaſions to the Engliſh markets, beſides a variety of ſea trout, herling, ſkellies, eels, pike and burn trout. The Dryte runs through this pariſh for about 3 miles on the N. W. part, emptying itſelf into the Annan in a direct line, between the market town of Lockerbie and the Royal Burgh of Lochmaben. It riſes in the northern end of Hutton pariſh, and runs a courſe directly ſouth about 11 miles. It is, in moderate weather, a ſmall rivulet, clear and pure, having in its pools plenty of trout, and ſome ſmall ſalmon, &c.; but in rainy weather, it comes down in ſwells, ſuddenly and rapidly, *driving* all before it that comes in its way; hence the name, overſpreading its holms, and increaſing the Annan The gently riſing hills on each ſide are cultivated, or exhibit a beautiful verdure, and rich paſture for cattle and ſheep. The Currie and Milk touching it on the E. and S. E. alſo abound in trout and ſmall ſalmon. The Currie is a ſmall ſtream, about 5 miles long from N. to S. deriving its name from its ſource, being a *Corrie*, a Celtic term, ſignifying a confined cleugh or glen, of which ſort is the ſpring of the Annan, vulgarly called the "Annan Peck," or the Marquis of Annandale's "Beef Stand." Its banks and contiguous farms afford the richeſt paſture, and as rich crops of corn in favourable ſeaſons, as any high lying part of the country. It empties itſelf into the Milk, at the eaſtern extremity of the centrical line of this pariſh. The Milk, a limpid rivulet, has on each ſide very rich land for arrage, but peculiarly for paſturage to milk cows, hence the name. It touches this pariſh only for about a mile and a half, though its courſe being partly weſt, and then ſouth, is not leſs than 12 miles, when it diſcharges itſelf into the Annan oppoſite the Watch Tower of *Repentance* in Cummertrees pariſh. Along the banks of the Dryſe and Annan, there is a tract

of

of rich holm land, the waſhings of both waters for time immemorial, conſiſting of deep loam, very productive under proper culture. The other cultivated lands are generally light and dry, lying on a flatey and ragged rock, or gravel, which, with lime, marl and dung, produce very well. The hilly parts are generally dry, green, with very little heath, and fit for cattle or ſheep. The air is dry and healthy, becauſe the country has a fine open expoſure to the S. and W. The ſpring in favourable ſeaſons is early. The ſummer ſometimes extremely hot. Harveſt ſoon on the weſtern ſide. Winter ſtormy and cold. High winds, heavy rains, but ſeldom any continuation of ſnow, though of froſt in ſome ſeaſons for upwards of one, two, or three months together, which is always reckoned a preparation for, and a prognoſtication of a kindly ſpring, a nouriſhing ſummer, and plentiful harveſt. Peats are ſcarce, ſometimes ſold for 2 s. 3 s. and even 4 s. the ſingle cart-load. Coals are brought from Sanquhar in the upper part of Nithſdale, Tindall, Fell, and Archerbeck in Cumberland, at the diſtance of 30 and 40 miles, and ſold at 9 s. the cart load in Lockerbie; an inſuperable bar to riſing manufactures at preſent, and principally occaſioned by the unproductive and impolitical tax on coals over the Solway Frith, which is ſaid and expected ſoon to be taken off there, and alſo in ſimilar ſituations in Scotland, which would be a vaſt benefit to the country. No epidemical diſeaſes are peculiar to this pariſh. The common duration of human life is 60 years, though ſome advance to 70, 80, and 90.

Population, &c.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population then was 1097. The number of inhabitants now is about 1600; 700 in the thriving town of Lockerbie, and 900 in the country part of the pariſh. There are about

40 births, upwards of 30 deaths, and 12 marriages annually. Lockerbie being a market and poſt town, and the moſt noted place of the pariſh, merits a particular deſcription. It is ſo called, as many other places on the Engliſh border, and up and down Annandale, Eſkdale and Nithſdale, of the ſame termination, becauſe the term *Bie*, being Celtic, ſignifies a "ſtation or place of ſtrength." Lockerbie had been a place or tower of ſafety, ſituated between and almoſt ſurrounded by two lochs or lakes, now drained; the one, on the eaſt ſide of the intervening ridge, is converted into a rich bog meadow, in the bottom of which is a deep bed of ſhell marl, but, on account of the ſtagnating water, difficult to be wrought; the other, on the weſt ſide, is partly meadow and partly moſs, lying alſo on marl, very deep. The town conſiſts of one long ſtreet from N. to S. in extent about half a mile, and another, at a right angle to the E. about a quarter of a mile. There are about 150 inhabited houſes; 2 fairs, and 10 markets yearly. The fairs are at Lammas and Michaelmas, when moderate tolls are levied by the proprietor, amounting only to about L. 16 Sterling a-year. At the 10 markets all are free. During the courſe of the year, there are ſold for England upwards of 50,000 yards of linen and woollen cloth, and at the Lammas fair about 20,000 lambs, partly to be wintered in the neighbourhood, but principally for England, and all the other articles uſually ſold at the ordinary markets in their proper ſeaſons *. About 60 years ſince, there were

* The Lammas fair is upon the 2d of Auguſt O. S. excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that caſe, on the Tueſday following; the Michaelmas fair is upon the 2d of October O. S. excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that caſe, on the Tueſday following. The 10 markets are on the 2d Thurſday O. S. in January, February, March, April, May. Third Thurſday in June, called the midſummer market. The next is 14 days after the Michaelmas fair, if on a Thurſday, or otherwiſe

were very few houſes in Lockerbie; but at that period, the late laird of Lockerbie, with conſent of his then ſurviving father, granted many feus of houſe-ſteadings and yards, on the weſt ſide of the ſtreet, and long tacks of the ſame ſort on the eaſt ſide, for fourſcore times 21 years. Since that time the town has been yearly enlarging. There are no public manufactures eſtabliſhed as yet; but a great deal of foreign and inland flax is given out to be ſpun from the ſhops. I remember one of them once told me, he has had in the courſe of a year more than 500 ſpinſters of factory-lint on his books, partly from the country, and partly from the town, the yarn being exported to Kendal, and other manufacturing towns in England. There are in Lockerbie, 12 large ſhops, 6 leſs ones, 2 ſurgeons and apothecaries, 2 midwives, 2 writers, 2 meſſengers, 6 weavers, 10 tailors, 5 wrights, 3 blackſmiths, 1 nailer, one principal inn, where carriages and horſes may be hired, 3 leſſer inns, 2 watchmakers, 2 bakers, 3 butchers, 2 barbers, 11 carters, 3 wheel-wrights, 1 gardener, 2 claggers, 2 ſaddlers, 2 tanners, and in the town and pariſh jointly, there are about 80 ploughs, 3 millers, and 200 horſes. The pariſh-church ſtands upon

wiſe on the Thurſday thereafter; the next, 3 weeks after the laſt, called the Martinmas market; the next 14 days thereafter; and the 10th, on the Thurſday before Yule, or Chriſtmas O. S. The hiring market for ſervants for the ſummer half year is in April. For the winter ditto, is the 14 days one after Michaelmas, and the aforeſaid, for the greateſt part of Annandale. At thoſe hiring markets, the wage of a man for the half year is about L. 3. 10s. of a woman L. 1, 15s. but varying according to circumſtances. In the markets, and at the proper ſeaſons, there is a vaſt variety of young cattle, cows, horſes, &c. expoſed to ſale. There is an old ſquare tower ſtill ſtanding, called the *Mains* which was the ſite or manſion-place of the ancient family of the Johnſtons of Lockerbie, being a branch of the old Laird Johnſton's of Lochwood, the anceſtors of the late Marquis of Annandale. Lockerbie lies 12 miles E. from Dumfries, 4 from Lochmaben, 16 miles S. from Moffat, 16 miles W. from Langholm, 12 miles N. from Annan, and 6 from Ecclefechan.

upon an eminence, at the head or north end of the town. It is a neat edifice, handſomely fitted up in the inſide, and may contain about 750 people. It was built in the year 1757, being at that time removed from Dryfeſide, 1½ mile north of Lockerbie. It is ſaid, that in the year 1670, Dryfe ſwept away the original church and burying ground, which was in the middle of the holm, now called the *Sand Bed*; after this, in 1671, the late church and burial ground was eſtabliſhed at a ſmall diſtance, and upon the ſkirt of the preſent glebe, or Kirkhill, thought to be perfectly ſecure from the ſwells of Dryfe; but the water in proceſs of time, approached the new burying ground, carrying a good deal of it away, and threatening the church itſelf, verifying the old ſaying or prophecy of Rymer,

"Let ſpades and ſhoels do what they may,
"Dryfe will have Dry'ſdale kirk away."

Partly from the above circumſtances, but principally through the influence of the family of Lockerbie, the church was removed to the town, for the ornament and convenience of the place and pariſh. There is an Antiburgher meeting houſe at the ſouth or foot of the town, eſtabliſhed about 50 years ſince, the only one in Annandale, and draws only a moderate congregation and annual income from the whole dale.

Lakes, Cleughs, or Glens.—Turnmoor Loch affords a ſufficient quantity of water for ſupplying the corn and barley mills of that name, but hath nothing peculiar, excepting its being an excellent haunt for wild ducks, geeſe, and other fowls in the winter-ſeaſon. The Cauldron is a very deep lake in the midſt of a moraſs, never freezing, abounding with pike and eels, being the remains of the old water-gate

of

of Dryfe, and in which there is plenty of ſhell marl, but expenſive in the working. Half a mile ſouth of this, and in the ſame tract, there is a vaſt fund of excellent and workable marl, belonging to the Duke of Queenſberry, and which is extremely beneficial to his Grace's tenants, coſting only 3 d. the cart load, and 30 cart load being ſufficient for an acre. St Mary's Cleugh, at the north end of the pariſh, ſeparating it from Sibbaldbie, is very deep, and its ſteep ſides are covered with the moſt thriving plantations of oak and aſh, ſome of the latter being 60 feet high, plenty of hazle, and nuts in the ſeaſon. The Biſhop Cleugh, ſo called from its being old kirk-lands, has nothing remarkable. The Scale Cleugh, on the eaſt ſide of the pariſh, is very deep, and its ſteep banks are covered with hazle and bruſhwood. There are other cleughs, but none remarkable.

Antiquities.—On the holm of Dryfe, about ½ mile below the old church-yard, are two very aged thorn trees, with a tumulus at their baſe, called *Maxwell's Thorns*, becauſe they point out the place of the remarkable fight on Dryfeſands, between the Maxwells of Nithſdale and the Johnſtons of Annandale *. There are veſtiges of ſtrong towers at Old Walls,

* The particulars are: On 7th December 1593, the Lord Maxwell, warden of the weſtern marſhes, having, in conjunction with the then Lairds of Dumlanrig and Cloſeburn, collected 2000 men in arms, marched into Annandale to beſiege the Laird Johnſton's houſe of Lochwood, and through deadly ſpite to extirpate *him* and all his name. Accordingly, early on the morning, the Laird Maxwell came to Lockerbie, expecting to find the Johnſtons, vaſſals of the Lochwood family, at home; but being diſappointed, burnt the houſe of Nether Place, the reſidence of the Laird of Lockerbie's brother, and afterwards returned to his party at Dryfeſands. It ſo happened, that Annandale Johnſton ſoon appearing with only 40 horſes, engaged 80 of the enemy, put them to flight, purſuing a certain length, and then, through deſign, ſuddenly retreating, were followed by the whole body of the enemy, with Lord Maxwell at their head, till they came to the Torrwood

Walls, Kirktown-mains, Nether-place, Myrehead, and Daltonhook. There are evident remains of 8 camps or forts, ſome ſquare or Roman, others circular or Britiſh, and moſtly built on eminences, becauſe about 2000 years ſince (their age) the ſides of the eminences or hills had been covered with growing wood, and the preſent flat or low lying and holm lands in Annandale had partly been a moraſs, or under water; hence we find, that the Roman roads were generally made on riſing ground, when it could be got. The moſt remarkable are two, the one Britiſh, and the other Roman, facing each other, and ſeparated by a narrow moraſs. They are built on two hills E. of the village *Bengall*, the name alluding to the forts on the hills, ſignifying the hill of the Gauls. Old pieces of armour and warlike weapons have frequently been found in them, and not many years ſince, the ſkeleton of a man was found in a cairn, on the intervening moraſs, thought to have laid there for ſome ages, and ſome fragments of his dreſs or accoutrements were carried off as a curioſity, particularly his ſandals, curiouſly wrought and bound around the mouths with leathern thongs, were conveyed into England for the Oxford Muſeum. There is another, a Roman fort, beautifully ſituated upon a large eminence, in the centre of the united and extenſive holm of Dryfe and Annan, called the Gallaberry, or the burgh and ſtation of the Gauls, for the term *Berry* is of Saxon origin, ſignifying "burgh, manſion, or ſtrength."

on the S. E. ſide of Dryfe, whence 400 Annandalians ſprung, flew upon the ſurpriſed enemy, after a ſhort, but bloody ſtruggle, put them into confuſion, and being joined by a few Scots, from Eſkdale, under the Laird of Buccleugh, completed the victory, killing upwards of 700, among whom was the Lord Maxwell himſelf, and purſued the routed enemy to the Gotterbie Ford of the Annan, where many were drowned. A great number that eſcaped, were marred or hurt on the face during the fight; hence the common ſaying, "A Lockerbie lick." It is ſingular that ſo few defeated ſo many.

The moſt entire is a Britiſh one at Dry'ſdale gate, occupying about 2 acres of ground, commanding a moſt extenſive proſpect; its counterpart is a large Roman one about ½ mile due E. interrupted by a moor, being the place celebrated for the bloody battle between the army of Julius Agricola, and the forces of Corbredus Galdus, the 21ſt king of the Scots, about the end of the 1ſt century. There are plain traces of the great Roman road, from the borders of England up to the vaſt encampments on the neighbouring beauteous and conſpicuous round green hill of Burn'ſwork, and thence croſſing this pariſh at Lockerbie to Dry'ſdale gate, and up to the Gallaberry above mentioned, where it divided, one branch leading up through Annandale, by Moffat, to Tweeddale and Clydeſdale; the other branch croſſing the Annan, touched an entire and beautiful double fort on the northern margin of one of the Lochmaben lakes, called the *Woody Caſtle*, thence paſſed up the weſt ſide of the water of Ae, through Nith'ſdale to the weſt country.

Hills, Quarries, &c.—Upon the banks of the Currie, there is an eminence called Currie Law, the term ſignifying a ſummit commanding a large and deep view below. There is a range of beauteous green hills running from N. to S. for about 3 miles, dividing the Highland from the low part of the pariſh. The Highland or outerly part, had been once a pariſh by itſelf, called *Little Hutton*, in contraſt to the large pariſh of Hutton conterminous. The church and burying ground had been at Halldykes, for in the garden, human bones are frequently dug up; but there is neither record nor tradition of the time of its annexation to Dry'ſdale. Beſides this church of Little Hutton, there were two other places of public worſhip in the pariſh, *viz.* The chapel of Beekton, ſuppoſed to belong to the Knight's Templars, lying ½ mile N. W. of Lockerbie, where the traces

of

of graves are ſtill manifeſt, and at which there is a moſt copious and excellent ſpring well. There is alſo the veſtige of the chapel at Quaas ¼ mile W. of Lockerbie, the font-ſtone of which ſerves for the market croſs of Lockerbie to this day. The moſt lofty and beautiful hill, (for there are no mountains in the pariſh,) is *Whitewynd* or *White Woolen*, carpetted with an unvaried green, being an excellent paſturage for pets or unlaid ſheep, hence the name. This hill is of conſiderable heighth and ſteepneſs; on its ſummit there is a ſpacious plain, in the centre whereof is a mound or mote, where a fire uſed to be kindled to warn the country of the incurſions of the Engliſh borderers. From this top, there is a moſt extenſive and enchanting proſpect of Annandale, Eſkdale, the Engliſh border, Solway Frith, Iriſh Sea, Iſle of Man, part of Nith'ſdale, and Galloway. At the ſouthern end of the pariſh, there is a limeſtone quarry, which produces a coarſe, dark-coloured, but ſtrong lime for land. There is ſome freeſtone at Old Walls, but too ſoft for durable uſe. There is plenty of whin and rag ſtone in the neighbourhood of Lockerbie, which, when ſkilfully built, makes excellent and beautiful walls. Free hewn ſtone comes from the upper end of Lochmaben pariſh, about 4 miles diſtant.

Cattle, Sheep, &c.—There is a great number of black cattle bred in the pariſh, particularly in the Highland part. A good deal of butter and cheeſe made. In the neighbourhood of Lockerbie, the grazing of a milk cow is L. 1, 10 s. a-year. Skimmed milk is ſold for 1 d. the Scotch pint, butter at 8 d. and 9 d. the pound, new cheeſe at 3 d. the pound, and old cheeſe from 5 s. to 8 s. the ſtone, heavy weight, being 24 ounces to the pound. The farmers preferring black cattle to ſheep, there is only one or two ſheep ſtocks in the pariſh, yet there are a great number of pets and

lambs, and hogs wintered, in all amounting to about 1200 *. Black cattle, horſes, ſheep and wool, have been riſing in their price for ſeveral years paſt. The wool ſold at the Lockerbie markets comes from the upper part of Annandale and Eſkdale, and is from 4 s. to 10 s. the ſtone. Unlaid or pet wool, is from 15 s. to L. 1, 1 s. the ſtone. The common people are generally clothed in home manufacture, from the laid ſheep wool, at the rate of 2 s. 6 d. 3 s. and 4 s. the yard, for the Scotch ellwand is now univerſally laid aſide. Every family is a ſmall factory for both linen and woollen cloth. There are a great many dyers and dreſſers of cloth, alſo bleachers, in this part of the country.

Roads, Woods, &c.—The great poſt and turnpike road from London to Edinburgh and Glaſgow, runs through Lockerbie and this pariſh. The ſouthern mail coach arrives at the poſt-office here every evening, and the northern ditto every morning. The time of communication between London and Lockerbie (336 miles) is only about 50 hours. Along this road in the ſpring, but eſpecially in the end of harveſt, vaſt droves of black cattle from the North and Weſt Highlands paſs into England, to the number of about 20,000 annually, prices from L. 3 to L. 7 each, in order to be fatted in the Norfolk fenns and other places, and ſupply the London and other markets, making the moſt delicious meat, vaſtly preferable to the large and rancid Iriſh horned bullocks. About 50 cart loads of merchant goods paſs weekly to and from Glaſgow, and that vicinity, moſtly of the cotton ſort. The private roads in this pariſh are getting into

* The beaſts of the wild kind are foxes, hares, badgers, polecats, weaſels, hedgehogs, adders, ſnakes, otters. There are moorfowl, red and black, patridges, &c.; alſo geeſe, ducks, herons, teals, ſnipes, plovers, woodcocks, blackbirds, crows, magpies, thruſhes, wrens lapwings, kites, hawks, cuckoos, ſwallows, cranes, pigeons, ſparrows, linnets, larks, goldfinches, ſea-gulls, and robin-red-breaſts.

into excellent repair, owing to the converſion of the ſtatute labour of the farmers and houſehoulders into a pecuniary aſſeſſment, by act of Parliament 1777, producing in this pariſh annually L. 45; which, by the judicious management of the commiſſioners in general, and peculiarly by the ability and activity of William Stewart, Eſq; factor to Lord Hopetoun, as ſucceeding the late Marquis of Annandale, the only reſiding juſtice of the peace and acting commiſſioner of ſupply in the pariſh, has been properly expended, and contributed to their improvement beyond expectation. In conſequence of this melioration, lime carriage for the improvement of land is greatly facilitated, and a ſpirit of agricultural improvement prevails, though the lime is brought at 10 miles diſtance. The new mode of farming, by rotation of crops, and ſubdividing and incloſing by ſtone fence, hedge, and ditch, and planting trees on the hedge-rows, takes place. There are but few woods in the pariſh. There are ſome new and thriving plantations of common firs on Lord Hopetoun's and Lord Mansfield's lands, and ſome old ſtrips along the cleugh ſides and banks of the waters, and particularly there is a large plantation round the manſion-houſe of Halldikes, Whitewynd, Roſebank, and Robert-hill, and ſome infant plantations riſing on the eſtate of Lockerbie; but it muſt be acknowledged, that this part of the country is defective and naked in this particular, though it now ſeems to be on the mending hand.

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 77, and the glebe, though upwards of 20 acres, is not worth above L. 8 yearly; becauſe it is generally bad land. The manſe is a new and neat building, ſtanding on the ſummit of the old Kirkhill, on the ſide of Dryfe, contiguous to the old churchyard, in an open part of the country, and is the moſt conſpicuous and beauteous ſituation in Annandale, commanding a moſt

moſt extenſive and enchanting view, terminated by the towering, though far diſtant mountain of *Skiddaw* beyond the Solway frith, in Cumberland, on the ſouth; by the lofty mountains of Hartfell and Queenſberry, at the head of Annandale, on the north; and acroſs the rich and widely extended vale of Annandale, in ſome places 4, in others 8 miles over. The waters of Dryfe, Annan, Kinnel, and Ae, uniting their kindred ſtreams in the centre of the vale. In ſummer and harveſt it is delightful indeed to ſee ſuch a rich variety of lofty mountains and deep vallies, of green hills and growing dales, of winding rivers and rivulets, of rich paſtures and richer crop-lands, all around. The royal burgh of Lochmaben is in full and diſtinct view acroſs the Annan to the weſt. The town clock is heard, and the Caſtle loch, a ſheet of 204 acres of water, with the caſtle ruins on a peninſula on the ſouth ſide, is ſeen. The proſpect is beautified and variegated with a great number of gentlemens ſeats and plantations on all hands; ſuch as the Kirkwood, Denbie, Whitecroft, Rammerſcales, Holmains, Newmains, Fourtowns, Halleaths, Caſtlemains, Lochmaben, Ellſhieſhields, Riggheads, Todhillmoor, Kirkmichael place, Hillſide, Balgray, and above all the new and elegant palace belonging to Lord Hopetoun at Raehills on the Annandale eſtate. The crown is patron. The pariſh, in the 13th century, by King Robert Bruce, was given as a menſal church to the Archbiſhoprick of Glaſgow, and alſo the neighbouring pariſh of St Mungo.—There is an eſtabliſhed pariſh-ſchool, with the uſual ſalary of 100 merks, and the intereſt of L. 80 of mortified money, together with the common ſchool-fees. It is to be regretted, that too ſmall encouragement is afforded to ſchoolmaſters in Scotland, a claſs of men, extremely uſeful, if able and faithful. There are ſeveral private ſchools alſo.—The poor are ſometimes upwards of 20 that receive ſupply from the kirk-ſeſſion, the ordinary collections at the church,

church, with fines, and the annualrent of L. 65 of mortified money, amount to about L. 18 yearly. This, together with the alms afforded by the houſeholders, is amply ſufficient to ſupply the neceſſitous poor; but there is a vaſt influx of vagrants and beggars from diſtant places, notwithſtanding the activity of the Juſtices of the Peace in ſending many to the houſe of correction at Dumfries. Poors rates would be an unneceſſary and heavy burden on this part of the country. The people are very liberal to their own poor, and perhaps too much ſo to ſtrangers.

Heritors, Agriculture, &c.—There are only 4 ſmall reſiding heritors, with the numerous body of feuars and long tackſmen in Lockerbie. The great and non-reſiding proprietors are the Duke of Queenſberry, Earl of Hopetoun, Earl of Mansfield, Lady Douglaſs of Killhead for Lockerbie, Mr Harries of Hilldikes, and Mr Johnſton of Barngallhill, beſides 6 ſmall non-reſiding heritors. There are upwards of 60 farms from L. 25 to L. 100 rent, and ſome few above that ſum; the arable land is in general about 13s. 4d. the acre, and Highland paſture about 2s. and 2s. 6d. The incloſed parks around Lockerbie give from 17s. 6d. to double that ſum of yearly rent. The groſs rental of the pariſh is L. 3400, and the valuation is 7194½ merks. The crops are oats, barley, peaſe, potatoes, turnips, flax, ſome hemp and rye, and wheat, with ſown graſſes in rotation. A conſiderable quantity of barley is exported at port Annan from this pariſh to Whitehaven and Liverpool for malting, alſo oats and potatoes. A great many ſwine are fatted and ſold at the weekly market of Lockerbie during the ſeaſon. About 200 are annually fed in the pariſh, from 10 to 20 ſtones each, and give from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. the ſtone, and cured and dried hams are about 6d. the pound. Farmers make their rents partly from their barley and bacon

corn exported, and from oats raw or manufactured into meal, and from the breeding of black cattle and ſome for horſes. As the grain here is of the beſt quality, it commands the higheſt price. The price of labour is greatly on the riſe, particularly in harveſt; reapers getting 1 s. the day with their victuals, and 1 s. 6 d. without them; but at the other ſeaſons labourers are much cheaper, being in winter 6 d. and in ſpring and ſummer 8 d. and 9 d. the day with victuals.

General Character, and Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people are honeſt, ſober, induſtrious in their reſpective occupations; well affected to the preſent govenment, both eccleſiaſtical and civil; peaceable and pious, regular in attending church ordinances on the Lord's day, are well acquainted with the principles of Chriſtianity, are devoid of bigotry and hypocriſy, are moderate and humane, and delight to favour one another. Even in the town of Lockerbie, where dramming ſometimes does prevail, eſpecially about the market times, there has not been a fight or quarrel worth mentioning for theſe 11 years paſt, the time of the incumbent's miniſtry, nor for as long before that, as he has been informed. This is a proof of the civilization of the people; and peculiarly to the praiſe of the fair ſex, if men are ſometimes ſeen drunk, women never are, neither at markets, nor on any other occaſion. Marriages are early and fruitful, there being few bachelors beyond 25 years of age. This pariſh hath produced ſeveral eminent, learned, and mercantile men, who have travelled to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and ſucceſsfully obtained fortunes. The principal diverſion or amuſement is curling on the ice in the winter, when ſometimes ſcores of people aſſemble on the waters, and in the moſt keen, yet friendly manner, engage

againſt

gainſt one another, and uſually conclude the game and day with a good dinner, drink, and ſongs. The people are healthy and robuſt. The pariſh is improving in agriculture annually, and increaſing in the number of inhabitants; but eſpecially in the town of Lockerbie, which hath increaſed upwards of 150 within theſe 10 years paſt. The dreſs, diet, language, and manners, are daily mending, and vaſtly ſuperior to ſome of the neighbouring and country pariſhes.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF BOURTIE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH).

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS SHEPHERD.

Extent, Soil, &c.

ITS extent is about 4 Engliſh miles in length, and 2 in breadth, and it contains about 4000 acres, moſt of which have been meaſured, and above 600 acres incloſed. Some of theſe incloſures are planted with firs, and generally in a thriving way. One of the greateſt extent, of 50 acres, on the eſtate of Barra, was among the earlieſt planted in this country, and is now cutting down and ſelling to good account. On the ſame eſtate is lately finiſhed another incloſure, not ſo extenſive as the former, but is ſtocked with a variety of plants of different kinds of wood beſides that of firs. About the middle of the pariſh, there are two ranges of hills, moſtly green. They ſeem of old to have been laboured within 50 yards of the top, but now the

the higher parts are neglected. The ground upon the ſkirts, and at the bottom of theſe hills, is wet and ſpungy; later in harveſt by 10 days than the earlieſt parts of the pariſh, and ſeems more ſuited for graſs than grain. The lands lying to the W. and to the E. of theſe hills are generally of a ſtrong ſtiff ſoil, with a clay bottom, pretty fertile, but much peſtered with large ſtones, both above and below the ſurface. About 20 years ago, our country did not breed cattle of ſufficient bulk and ſtrength to labour the ground. They were moſtly brought from the ſouth, particularly from Fifeſhire. In a few years, by hard labour, they were worn out, and became unfit for ſervice; and as the farmer had not the means of fattening them, he very often ſold them for a third part of what they coſt him. The caſe is now much altered to the better. The farmer brings up oxen able for his work, ſells them or fattens them when they begin to be upon the decline, and in this way is rather a conſiderable gainer than a loſer upon his work cattle.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population was then 525. The number of inhabitants, by an exact liſt in 1771, was 560. It is now only 450; the decreaſe is principally owing to the monopoly of farms, and the ſcarcity of moſs. Of the preſent inhabitants, 2 are Seceders, 10 Epiſcopalians, and 6 Quakers, the reſt attend the Eſtabliſhed Church.

Rents.—One farmer poſſeſſes nearly what employed 4; each of whom yoked 10 oxen. The proprietor took theſe lands under his own management for a few years, incloſed and limed a conſiderable part of the grounds, built an excellent dwelling-houſe, ſubſtantial and commodious office-houſes,

houſes, and let the whole to one gentleman, at rather more than double the rent the lands formerly gave. The rent is now about L. 185 Sterling. Another farm rents L. 105 Sterling. The reſt of the rents of the pariſh are from L. 40 down to L. 7 Sterling. The whole rent of the pariſh is about L. 1000 Sterling, the valued rent L. 2501 Scots.

Mode of Cultivation.—Several of the tenants yoke 10 oxen in one plough; however, the new huſbandry has been practiſed by ſome of them for ſeveral years, and is daily increaſing. There are about 50 acres of turnip, and 250 of ſown graſs. The grain generally ſown is bear and oats, few peaſe or lint-ſeed; and there are as many potatoes raiſed as ſerve the inhabitants.

Number of Cattle.—There are about 600 black cattle; 500 ſheep paſture during the ſummer, but not ſo many the winter, and 130 horſes. We have now 60 carts. In 1744, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled, there were only 2. At that period there were only two houſes in the pariſh which had ſtone chimnies, the houſe of Barra and the manſe. Since that time, three of the heritors have built manſion-houſes; and within theſe few years, ſeven neat and commodious houſes have been erected, upon different farms within the eſtate of Barra.

Manure and Fuel.—The principle manure is that which the cattle afford. Of late the farmers have begun to bring lime from Aberdeen and Newburgh, Engliſh and Scotch ſhells, and ſome powdered lime from Udny and the Buchan country. Some years ago it was to be had at Pit-

medden,

medden. The principal fuel is peat, and ſome turf from the moors and ſurface of the peat-moſs.

Antiquities.—On the ſummit of the hill of Barra, there are the diſtinct remains of a camp, of a circular form, in extent near to 3 acres, and ſurrounded with 3 ditches. It goes under the name of the *Cummin's Camp.* The Cummins were a bold and numerous race of people, who are ſaid to have been proprietors of the greateſt part of the Buchan country, and diſaffected to King Robert Bruce. After the battle near Inverury, where the king's arms were victorious, he marched his troops, ſtormed this camp, and put the Cummins to flight. It is probable this camp had been originally formed by the Danes, as it ſeems to have required conſiderable time and labour to execute it, and that the Cummins had taken poſſeſſion of it as an advantageous poſt. In the church-yard there is a long rough ſtone, cut out into a coarſe ſtatue of a man. The traditional report is, that it was done for the celebrated Thomas de Longueville, the companion of Wallace, who was killed in ſtorming the above mentioned camp, and is buried here; but all this reſts upon uncertain tradition. There are three Druidical temples here, two of them pretty entire.

Heritors and Stipend.—There are 5 heritors, none of whom at preſent reſide. The ſtipend is L. 42 : 4 : 5 in money, 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear.

Character of the People.—They are ſober, induſtrious, and peaceable. Since 1744 none of them have been tried before a criminal court.

Advantages

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages a
the sobriety of the inhabitants, (not an alehouse being i
the parish), and the diligence of the women in knittin
stockings. They are far from lime, and it requires a con
siderable share of their summer labour to provide fuel.

* The rise of farm servants wages is very remarkable. When the pre-
sent incumbent was settled in 1744, the half year's wage of men servants
was from 8s. to 15s. Sterling. The present rate is from L. 2, 10s. to
L. 3, 15s. Sterling.

NUM-

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH of CRAIL,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREW'S.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW BELL.

Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Crail lies upon the eaſt point of the county of Fife. It is bounded on the S. by the frith of Forth, and on the E. by the German ocean; its form is irregular, and breadth unequal; its greateſt length from Fife's Neſs to Kingſcavin Mill, is about 6 Engliſh miles. The number of acres cannot be exactly aſcertained. The valued rent is L. 13,682 : 13 : 4 Scots. As the valuation, from the early cultivated ſtate of this part of the country, is in general high, it is probable that the real rent does not exceed it in ſo great a proportion as in many other diſtricts of Scotland.—The general appearance of the country is flat and naked. At a very little diſtance from the high water mark, the land riſes abruptly from 20 to 60 or 80 feet above the level of the ſea. From thence it ſwells gently towards the Weſt,

Weſt, without forming any hill or remarkable acclivity. The few trees and hedges here are reared with difficulty, and have an unhealthy appearance. The ſtrong breezes from the ſea contribute much to retard their growth. They thrive beſt at Ardrie, which has encouraged the preſent proprietor to make ſeveral additional plantations. The ſoil is excedingly various. It is found of all kinds, from the richeſt deep black loam, and drieſt ſharp channel, to the pooreſt thin wet clay. The value is conſequently as various, from 3 s. or 4 s. to L. 1, L. 2, L. 3, L. 4, and in one inſtance to L. 5 an acre. The manures employed are lime, dung, and ſea-ware; which laſt is caſt upon the ſhore in great quantities; and upon many fields produces as good crops of barley, wheat, and turnips, as can be raiſed from dung.

Agriculture, &c.—In the mode of farming, there is nothing peculiar to this pariſh. The crops, and their rotation, are in general the ſame as along the reſt of the coaſt of Fife. The ploughs are of the new conſtruction, and univerſally drawn by two horſes. No threſhing mills are yet erected. Where the land is good, potatoes are generally planted as a preparation for wheat. An acre may produce from 40 to 60 bolls; 1500 or 2000 bolls are annually exported to the foreign and Engliſh markets, from 4 s. to 6 s. the boll. The trades people frequently rent ſmall portions of land from the farmers, which they plant with this uſeful root. At their leiſure hours they hoe and dreſs their little lots, an exerciſe which contributes both to their intereſt and to their health. In this way, after ſupplying the family, a few bolls are frequently procured for ſale. The rent, when paid in money, may be at the rate of L. 3 or L. 4 an acre; but a more common way is for the tradeſmen to give the ſeed and labour, allowing the farmer half the produce. Drilled

beans

beans are raiſed in the neighbourhood of the town in great quantities, and of an excellent quality. The crops of wheat, oats, bear and barley, are plentiful. Partly perhaps from prejudice, and partly from a wiſh to accommodate their practice to the general nature of the ſoil, which is rather late, as lying upon a cold bottom, many of the farmers in this and the neighbouring pariſhes, ſtill prefer for ſeed a mixture of bear or big and barley, in different proportions, which they call Ramble. Though they admit, that when equal quantities of theſe grains are mixed together, and the produce repeatedly ſown, the barley in a few years is found generally to prevail; yet they are of opinion that they can depend moſt upon this mongrel crop. They think that the bear, as being the earlier and hardier plant, cheriſhes the tender barley, and puſhes it forward in its various ſtages; that from its ſuperior ſtrength of ſtraw, it prevents the barley from lodging ſo much as it is apt to do, when ſown unmixed, a circumſtance peculiarly prejudicial upon a damp ſoil, from the great quantity of undergrowth it is diſpoſed to ſend up; and that, from the ſame quality, it aſſiſts much in winning and preſerving the whole crop in late and rainy ſeaſons. Experience without doubt confirms in ſome meaſure the truth of this train of reaſoning; but how far theſe advantages are counterbalanced by the inferiority of this mixed kind of grain to pure barley, yet remains to be aſcertained. Great quantities of theſe grains, with a full proportion of beans and wheat, are ſent every year to Glaſgow, and its neighbourhood. The opening of the Canal between the Forth and the Clyde, has been of immenſe advantage to the farmers and landholders in this part of the country, who formerly could find no good market for what corns they raiſed, beyond what was required for home conſumption. The principal farms, about 20 in number, are of a moderate ſize. Though ſeve-

ral ſmall ones were united, when the laſt leaſes were grant-
ed, yet the population of the country has not been ſo ma-
terially affected by this meaſure as by the gradual ſup-
preſſion of cot houſes, and a reduction of the number o
hands employed in agriculture, by the changes which hav
taken place in the mode of farming. A part of two e
ſtates is not under leaſe, but let from year to year in pa
ſture; and the principal heritors, with their families, are ei
ther gone from the pariſh altogether, or at moſt but occa
ſional reſidenters. A great proportion of the pariſh ſtil
continues unincloſed. Much has been done, but much ſtil
remains in reſpect of draining, which has always beer
found a moſt beneficial improvement. With a very few
exceptions, the farm-houſes and offices are bad; an evi
which, it is hoped, will be remedied when new leaſes are
granted. There is no doubt but in the end, the landholders
would find their advantage in this. The tenant, who, at the
riſk of a valuable ſtock, is anſwerable for a rent of L. 100,
L. 200 or L. 300 a-year, is entitled to good accommodation.
In the preſent improved ſtate of ſociety, a man of ſpirit or
property has no encouragement to engage with a farm,
where he and his family muſt be obliged to live in a hovel,
deſtitute of every convenience and comfort. About half
the valued rent of the pariſh belongs to Miſs Scott of Scot-
ſtarvit, a young Lady, whoſe amiable diſpoſition affords the
faireſt proſpect, that her ample fortune will be directed in a
manner highly advantageous to the intereſts of humanity in
general, and to the particular improvement of thoſe parts
of the country, in which ſhe has an immediate concern.
Beſides the farmers reſiding in the country, about 12 or 15
live in the town, who cultivate from 3 to 20 or 30 acres
each, partly rented, and partly their own property. Theſe
are an induſtrious claſs of men, whoſe numbers it is to be
wiſhed may not be reduced. Several of them are in the

practice

practice of letting their carts and horſes for hire for various purpoſes, particularly for bringing coals to the inhabitants either from the harbour or the neighbouring collieries.

Minerals.—In former times coal has been wrought both in the eaſt and weſt fields of Crail. Veſtiges of the pits and mines are eaſy to be traced. It is probable that no machinery was uſed, and that the crop-coal only, where it was level free, has been exhauſted. In times of ſcarcity, the poor people have from time immemorial, been in the practice of digging the thin ſeams of coal among the rocks along the ſea-ſhore; while they were thus employed a few weeks ago, within the high water mark, a gold coin of Queen Mary's was found, about 3 feet below the ſurface, under a ſtratum of rock, from whence the coal had formerly been wrought. It is dated 1553, and is intrinſically worth 11 s. or 12 s. in the poſſeſſion of Captain Whyte of Dyſart. Limeſtone is alſo found by the ſea-ſide in ſmall quantities. There are ſeveral quarries of it in the interior part of the pariſh, upon the town's moor, and the lands of Newhall, belonging to the Honourable Henry Erſkine. But though it is of a pretty good quality, yet, owing to its great depth, the working of theſe quarries has been productive of little profit to thoſe who have opened them. There is plenty of freeſtone; but, in general, it is by no means remarkable for its goodneſs.

Borough of Crail.—Crail is a place of great antiquity. The name formerly written Carle, Caryle and Carraille, is ſuppoſed to ſignify, in the Gaelic, its ſituation upon a ſmall winding or bending of the ſhore. By ſome of the old hiſtorians, it is mentioned as a town of conſiderable note, ſo early as the middle of the 9th century. It conſiſts of two parallel ſtreets, extending eaſt and weſt along the ſhore,

ſhore, which is here pretty ſteep and high. The one upon the N. is wide, tolerably well built, and paved. The ſouth or Nethergate is not paved; and though, in point of ſituation, perhaps naturally pleaſanter than the other, has of late fallen greatly to decay. The whole town bears evident marks of having ſeen better days. As almoſt every houſe has a yard or croft belonging to it, the town covers a conſiderable ſpace of ground. Owing to this circumſtance, and to its high ſituation in the immediate vicinity of the ſea, without trees or hills to afford occaſional ſhelter, it enjoys a pure, uniform temperature of air, highly favourable to the health of the inhabitants, without producing, however, any remarkable inſtances of longevity. In the pariſh, there are ſeveral above 80, but none above 90 years of age. Crail is a royal borough, and ſends a member to Parliament, in conjunction with Kilrenny, the two Anſtruthers and Pittenweem. It received a charter from Robert the Bruce, which was ſucceſſively confirmed, with ſeveral new grants, by Robert II. Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. By theſe charters, its privileges extend from the middle of the water of Leven, to the water of Puttekin, which falls into the ſea at Pitmilly burn mouth, with a right to the fiſhings, tolls, anchorage, &c. in all the harbours and creeks within theſe bounds. Accordingly the cuſtoms are regularly collected between Crail and Pitmilly. Pittenweem and Anſtruther Eaſter were burdened with an annualrent or reddendo, when they were erected into royal burghs. The other places between Crail and Leven do not appear ever to have been in uſe of making any ſuch payment for their anchorage and cuſtoms; but the queſtion has never yet been decided, whether the Town of Crail has or has not loſt theſe, with ſeveral other rights and privileges. About the beginning of this century, Crail was the great rendezvous for the herring

ring fiſhery in the frith of Forth. Beſides a great number of boats fitted out and manned by the fiſhermen and others belonging to the town, ſeveral hundreds aſſembled from different parts of the country, particularly from Angus, the Mearns and Aberdeenſhire. Theſe were ſupplied by the inhabitants with nets, for the uſe of which they received a certain proportion of what was caught. Immenſe quantities of herrings were cured for home conſumption, and for exportation. The *Drave*, as it is here called, was ſeldom known to fail. The fiſherman expected it as certainly as the farmer did his crop. Almoſt all the people in the place derived their ſupport from it, the other fiſheries, and the trade and manufactures which were immediately connected with them. A ſad change has now taken place; and we liſten as to a fairy tale, to the accounts given by old people of what they remember themſelves, or have heard related by their fathers. For half a century, the fiſheries here have been gradually declining. The herrings, for ſeveral years paſt, have neither viſited the coaſt in any conſiderable quantity, nor remained long enough upon it to ſpawn as formerly. This is partly to be aſcribed to unfavourable weather; partly to the ſhoals being broken by the buſs fiſhing upon the N. E. coaſt of Scotland, which was not the caſe during the flouriſhing period of the fiſhery here; partly to the encroachments of our neighbours the Dutch, who occaſionally ſweep our coaſt with a *fleet* of nets, extending ſeveral miles in length, at no greater diſtance than 2 or 3 leagues from the ſhore; and partly perhaps to the induſtry of man, having thinned this ſpecies of fiſh. This conjecture is not ſo vague, as ſome at firſt ſight may be apt to imagine. In addition to the havock made by the Britiſh and Dutch fiſhermen, immenſe quantities have of late years been killed upon the coaſts of Sweden and Norway. The herrings, crowding into

into the narrow bays and creeks, are there incloſed by nets, which are hauled upon the beach by the aid of capſtans, where after curing what may be required for the market, the reſt *by millions*, are immediately boiled down into oil, in cauldrons erected for that purpoſe on the ſhore. To the circumſtance, of the herrings not having ſpawned for ſeveral years paſt upon this part of the coaſt, muſt in a great meaſure be aſcribed the want of haddocks, which formerly uſed to be caught here in great quantities. About eight or ten years ago, the price was 2 s. 1 d. the long hundred, *i. e.* 132. At preſent, if one or two happen to be caught, they are greedily bought for 4 d. or 6 d. a-piece. The fiſheries of great cod and ſkate are ſtill good, but very precarious for open boats, as the beſt fiſhing ground lies far off ſhore. About 20 or 25 thouſand lobſters are ſent every year to the London market. Ten years ago, there was double the number. The price is L. 12, 10 s. the thouſand.

Population.—By the return made to Dr Webſter, the population was 2173.

Table of births, marriages, and deaths, in the town and pariſh of Crail, from 1750 to 1756.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1750,	64	16	48
1751,	60	19	45
1752,	67	20	71
1753,	82	22	46
1754,	66	17	35
1755,	70	11	79
1756,	61	13	40
Total,	470*	118	364
Average,	67 1/7	16 6/7	52

The

* Of theſe 249 males, 221 females.

The excefs of males above females in this table is perhaps uncommon. There is every reafon to believe, that during the above period, the regifter was kept with great exactnefs.

Table of births, marriages, and deaths, in the town and parifh of Crail, from the year 1786 to 1792. The population in 1790-91 was 1710 fouls.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1786,	56	9	27
1787,	48	7	34
1788,	39	8	38
1789,	53	12	36
1790,	52	10	26
1791,	45	10	52
1792,	49	11	35
Total,	342	67	248
Average,	$48\frac{6}{7}$	$9\frac{1}{7}$	$35\frac{3}{8}$

As there were two long vacancies during the above period, this table is not perhaps very accurate.

Particular ftate of the Population of the Town and Parifh of Crail, as taken in 1790-91.

No. of fam. in the town 335, in the country 73, total 430.
No. of fouls in the town 1301, in the country 409, tot. 1710.

Of thefe 770 are houfeholders,	322 males, and 448 fem.	
330 are child. under 8,	157 males, and 173 fem.	
457 are child. above 8,	185 males, and 272 fem.	
153 are houfe fer. &c.	74 males, and 79 fem.	
Total males in the parifh,	728	No. of females more than males, 234.
Total females,	972	
Total population in 1790-91,	1710	
Decreafe fince 1755,	463	

All the inhabitants are of the Eſtabliſhed religion, except 8 Epiſcopalians, 3 Burgher Seceders, and 3 Preſbytery of Relief.

The great exceſs of the females above the males, in the article of children, above 8 years of age, is occaſioned by the young men going to ſea, &c. while a great proportion of the girls remain at home with their parents. In the town of Crail there are 7 incorporated trades. The number of freemen, journeymen and apprentices, as they ſtood upon the roll in 1792, is as follows:

Smiths, 5 freemen, no journeymen nor apprentices.
Wrights, 8 freemen, 7 journeymen and apprentices.
Weavers, 35 freemen, 21 journeymen and apprentices.
Tailors, 12 freemen, 1 journeyman,
Shoemakers, 18 freemen, 11 journeymen and apprentices.
Coopers, 3 freemen, no journeymen nor apprentices.
Bakers, 7 freemen, 1 apprentice.

Several of theſe freemen are not engaged in their reſpective trades. At preſent there is but 1 working cooper, though this trade was formerly very flouriſhing. In the country there are 2 ſmiths, 5 weavers, 1 ſhoemaker, 1 maſon, and 1 miller. Beſides theſe, there are in the town, 2 hairdreſſers and barbers, 1 butcher, 11 maſons, 6 brewers, who alſo retail ale and Britiſh ſpirits, 1 vintner, and 3 others who retail ale, porter, and ſpirits, 1 ſurgeon, 1 writer, 1 miniſter, 1 ſchoolmaſter, 1 ſuperannuated uſher, 6 retail ſhopkeepers, and 1 miller.—Belonging to this port, there are 6 ſloops from 25 to 60 tons, 1 brig of 150 tons, and 1 ſloop upon the ſtocks. Theſe veſſels are navigated by 25 men. The number of ſailors belonging to the town, but ſailing from other ports, is very fluctuating. During the late French and American war, 72 men from the town and pa-

riſh

ſh of Crail, entered on board his Majeſty's fleet; a ſmall proportion returned home. Six boats are employed in the white or cod fiſhing, and 6 ſmaller ones in the lobſter fiſhing. The number of men required to work them, is about 45 or 50. In 1791, 13 large boats were fitted out for the herring fiſhery, each carrying 7 men. Upon the iſland of May, which, *quoad ſacra*, has always been conſidered ſince the Reformation as part of the pariſh of Crail, there were formerly 10 or 15 fiſhermens families, with a proportionable number of boats. At preſent there are only 3 men and 2 women upon it, for the purpoſe of taking care of the light. At Fife's Neſs there is only 1 boat, with 2 fiſhermen. The little village which is ſituated there, is not now ſo conſiderable as it appears once to have been. In the preſent generally decayed ſtate of the fiſheries along the eaſt coaſt of Fife, the people employed about them deſerve every protection and encouragement from the country. Nothing but the moſt preſſing neceſſity ſhould ever induce Government to make demands upon them for manning the Navy. Upon the occaſion of a late armament, one for every *five* men was required by the regulating captain at Leith, before

* For an account of this iſland, ſee the "Statiſtical Account of Anſtruther Weſter." The melancholy accident there recorded, *viz.* the ſuffocation of George Anderſon, his wife and five children in the light-houſe, between the night of the 23d and morning of the 26th of January 1791, is ſuppoſed to have been occaſioned by a fermentation among the immenſe heap of aſhes, which for years had been accumulating round the building, as the two men who were ſaved, declare that a ſulphureous ſteam was obſerved to iſſue from it for ſeveral weeks before the fatal night on which it burſt out in flames. The infant that was taken from the breaſt of the dead mother, and the eldeſt ſon and daughter, who happened providentially not to be upon the iſland, are under the protection of Miſs Scott, to whom the light-houſe belongs, and who doubtleſs will continue to patroniſe them, as they ſhall be found deſerving. For ſeveral curious particulars concerning this, and the other iſlands in the frith of Forth, ſee Sibbald's Hiſt. of Fife.

he would grant protections. The fiſhermen here furniſhed their quota at the expence of about *Eighty Pounds Sterling*, thereby incurring a debt which they have not yet been able to liquidate.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—It would appear that Crail was once the ſeat of a priory*. A ruin evidently

* This priory is not to be found in the liſt of religious houſes in Scotland at the time of the Reformation. It was probably ſuppreſſed long before that period. While this conjecture is ſtated with becoming diffidence, it is alſo proper to take notice of a tradition which ſome have heard, that the above mentioned ruin is the remains of a chapel dedicated to St Rufus. The kirk of Crail, with the teinds thereof, both parſonage and vicarage, anciently belonged to the priory of Haddington. In the year 1517, upon the petition and endowment of Sir William Myreton of Cambo, vicar of Lathriſk, Janet, Prioreſs of Haddington erected it into a collegiate church, with a provoſt, ſacriſt and ſeveral prebendaries. The provoſt had a right to the vicarage tithes, upon entertaining a vicar penſioner, for ſerving the cure of the pariſh within the ſaid collegiate church; and ſix of the prebendaries had annuities, payable out of certain lands and tenements of houſes, lying in the town and neighbourhood, mortified for that purpoſe by Sir William Myreton. The church, quire and veſtry, are ſtill ſtanding, and uſed as the place of public worſhip by the congregation. "An inventarie of the ornaments and of the ſylver wark in the college-kyrk of Carraile," is in the poſſeſſion of the preſent miniſter. It ſeems to have been handſomely provided. Beſides the high altar, there were eight others, dedicated to the Virgin, St Catharine, St Michael, St James, St John the Baptiſt, St Stephen, St John the Evangeliſt, and St Nicholas. It was in this church that the mob, inflamed by the preaching of the famous John Knox, began the work of aboliſhing the monuments of idolatry in Fife, as their brethren had done at Perth a few days before. Having finiſhed their operations here, they followed their apoſtolical leader to St Andrew's, where they aſſiſted in leveling its beautiful and ſuperb Cathedral to the ground. About the time of the Reformation, Lord Lindeſay ſeems to have obtained from the prioreſs and convent of Haddington, a *tack* of the tiends, both parſonage and vicarage, of the *parochin* and *pariſh kirk* of Crail, for the yearly rent of two hundred and fifty-five marks. By King James VI. the pariſh was diſjoined from the priory, and erected into a ſeparate and independant rectory. The patronage was veſted in Sir William Murray of Belvaird, who preſented Mr

evidently of great antiquity, the eaſt gable of which is ſtill ſtanding, bears the name of the prior walls. A well in the neighbourhood is called the *briery*, without doubt a corruption of *priory well*; and a croft belonging to the burgh is deſcribed in the valuation of the tiends 1630, as the *prior croft*. By the act of Parliament * which disjoined the pariſh of Crail from the priory of Haddington, a third part of the tiend-ſheaves was aſſigned for ſupport of the miniſter ſerving the cure. The pariſh being found too extenſive it was judged expedient to divide it. Accordingly, in 1630, the lands of Kingſbarns and others were erected into a ſeparate pariſh. A ſtipend of 5 chalders of victual was aſſigned to the miniſter, which was by the voluntary act

Mr William Murray to the benefice. He then reſigned the patronage into the King's hands in favour of John Lord Lindeſay, who in 1609 obtained from Mr Murray a confirmation of the former tack of the tiends, for three lives, and twice three nineteen years.

The town of Crail having by ſeveral charters obtained a grant of the *collegiate church* and its revenues, with the advocation, donation and right of patronage of its provoſtry, *prebendare*, chaplainaries, and choriſtry, diſputes began to ariſe between them and Lord Lindeſay concerning their reſpective rights. To prevent law-ſuits, a compromiſe was entered into in 1630, by which the town's right to the collegiate church, and the place called the college, with the right of patronage as above, was confirmed; but their claim to emolument was expreſsly reſtricted to the tithe fiſh, and the rents, fees and duties, which had been the eſpecial property of the provoſt and prebendaries. The parſonage and vicarage tithes excepting the tithe fiſh, were declared to remain with his Lordſhip and his ſucceſſors. In 1774-6, the queſtion concerning the right of patronage to the *pariſh church* was tried. By an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary it was given *againſt the town*, and the Earl of Crawford, as ſucceſſor to Lord Lindeſay, is now conſidered as undoubted patron.

* *Vide* Unprinted acts of King James VI. in the parliament houſe, Edinburgh. A more particular account of the collegiate church of Crail may be obtained by conſulting its chartulary, which is depoſited in the Advocates library, Edinburgh.

act of the heritors augmented to 8. The ſtipend of Crail was at the ſame time declared to be 10 chalders 2 firlots and 2 pecks of bear, which the miniſter accepted in full of all *tack-duties* formerly paid. No augmentation has hitherto been aſked. In 1758 a decreet was obtained for L. 66, 18s. 8d. Scots of element-money.—The miniſter has a houſe, garden, and ſtable, with a glebe of $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres, which is let for 16 bolls of bear and L. 4 of money-rent.—The ſchool of Crail has experienced a proportionable decay with the town. The number of ſcholars throughout the year is at a medium about 50. The fees are, for reading Engliſh 1 s. 6 d. reading and writing 2 s. writing and arithmetic 2 s. 6 d. Latin 3 s. Latin and arithmetic 5 s. the quarter. There are few Latin ſcholars, as the people in general are not able to afford their children a liberal education. There are ſeveral women who teach children to read. The late uſher of the public ſchool, who is ſuperannuated upon his ſalary, has alſo a few ſcholars. There is properly no parochial ſchoolmaſter. The Magiſtrates and Town-council are patrons, and the ſalary, which is L. 12 a-year, is paid from the *common good*. The income of the preſent incumbent, who is alſo precentor and ſeſſion-clerk, may be about L. 40 a-year. There is no houſe, nor garden annexed to the appointment.—The number of begging poor is only 6 or 8; but there are upwards of 100 who receive ſtated or occaſional charity. There are no poor rates: They are ſupplied from the following funds: 1*ſt*, The kirk-ſeſſion funds, which ariſe from the rent of about 6 acres of land; the intereſt of L. 293 Scots; the rent of ſeats in the church; dues upon marriages when the bride is in the pariſh; the collections at the church-doors; ſome ſmall feu-duties, and occaſionally gifts from heritors and others. After paying neceſſary fees and expenſes, theſe funds, upon an average of the

the laſt 4 years, have afforded L. 30 a-year to 20 or 25 penſioners at 6 d. each the week, and L. 33 more to theſe and others in diſtreſſed circumſtances, in occaſional charities of money, coals, clothes, &c. As benefactors to the poor, the families of Scotſtarvit, Wormiſton, and Sauchop, are mentioned with peculiar pleaſure. It may be proper to notice here, an excellent cuſtom which has been eſtabliſhed in the pariſh for more than a century. An annual collection is made at the church-door about Martinmas, for purchaſing ſhoes and other articles of clothing for the poor. The ſum collected varies according to circumſtances, from L. 3 to L. 7. A few guineas are always added by the ſeſſion, ſo that about L. 10 or L. 12 a-year are appropriated to this uſeful charity. 2*d*, The fiſhing box. The funds of this charity ariſe from a ſmall fee paid at entry into the ſociety, the rent of ſome land, and a half tithe of fiſh granted by the town. From theſe are paid about L. 30 a-year in weekly penſions from 6 d. to 1 s. 6 d. and from L. 6 to L. 10 in occaſional charities. 3*d*, The ſailors box. The funds of this ſociety ariſe from the rent of a few acres of land, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money. They pay about L. 10 a-year in ſtated and occaſional charities. 4*th*, The intereſt of L. 500 in the 3 *per cent.* S. Sea annuities 1751, mortified by Robert Ramſay tailor in London for behoof of the poor of the pariſh of Crail, under the management of the miniſter and Town-council for the time being. The intereſt of this ſum is divided yearly among poor houſeholders. The whole funds for ſupporting the numerous poor may be ſtated to be, one year with another, L. 120 or L. 125 Sterling. It is to be wiſhed that all the non-reſiding heritors would annually contribute their charitable mite, which in every point of view is a much better plan than the legal eſtabliſhment of poor rates.

Seats,

Seats, Antiquities, &c.—The only gentlemens ſeats in the pariſh are Balcomie, Wormiſton and Ardrie; the houſes of Weſt-barns and Newhall have been demoliſhed. In the line of antiquities there is nothing very remarkable; the prior walls, which ſtand cloſe to the ſea below the eaſt end of the town, have been already mentioned. Upon the point of land a little to the ſouth-weſt of the harbour, there are ſome traces of a building, which has given the name of *Caſtle Hyne* to a ſmall creek or inlet among the rocks. In the vicinity, ſome ſtone coffins have lately been found. The remains of an old caſtle overlook the harbour upon the eaſt. In it King David I. frequently reſided; hence Crail became a conſtabulary, extending weſtward to *Kincraig Nooke*. Sibbald, in his hiſtory of Fife, ſays, that this monarch died here; in general, he is ſuppoſed to have died at Carliſle in Cumberland. The ſimilarity of the names Carryle and Carliſle, has probably occaſioned the miſtake. Upon the ſite of this caſtle, a gentlemen has lately erected a neat ſummer-houſe, which commands a fine proſpect, and having a battery of ſmall cannon mounted upon its top, it makes an excellent appearance from the ſea *.

Manufactures,

* In the liſt of antiquities, *the Danes dike* muſt not be forgotten. It is the remains of a bulwark of *dry ſtones*, raiſed, it is ſaid, in one night by the Danes, who having been defeated by the Scots at the water of Leven in 874, retreated eaſtward till they came to the extreme point of Fife, which they fortified in this manner, to defend themſelves againſt the attacks of their victorious enemies, till they had an opportunity of embarking on board their ſhips, which were hovering in the mouth of the frith. The mound is quite overgrown with graſs, but it is diſtinctly to be traced for a conſiderable way acroſs the point. The large ſpace which it incloſes, with ſome other circumſtances which ſtrike an attentive obſerver upon the ground, might perhaps juſtify ſome degree of ſcepticiſm upon the ſubject. Near this dike is the ſmall cave in which the Danes put to death Conſtantine the Scottiſh King, whom they had taken priſoner in a ſkirmiſh as they retreated. The only other antiquity in the pariſh which ſeem

Manufactures, &c.—The reader muſt not expect to hear of the flouriſhing ſtate of trade and manufactures in this pariſh. They are indeed in a very languiſhing ſituation. The natural migration of commerce from ſmall towns, where the ſtock of the trader is inconſiderable, and the demand for conſumption limited, to great towns, where the capitals of merchants are large, and the demands extenſive and conſtant, has deprived Crail of any little portion of foreign trade which it formerly enjoyed. The various mercantile articles which are required, are brought weekly by the carriers from Edinburgh or Dundee, and occaſionally from Leith by ſea. Properly ſpeaking, there is no manufacture eſtabliſhed here. The women, however, are generally employed in ſpinning lint-yarn for the manufacturers in other places, to the extent of many thouſand ſpindles every year. At preſent the price is from 1s. 3d. to 8d. the ſpindle, according to the quality. A few ſhoes are made for the market; and nearly 40,000 yards of ſheetings, Oſnaburghs, coarſe brown linen, &c. are wrought by the weavers for ſale, over and above what is manufactured for private uſe. It is to be hoped, that by proper exertions, theſe, and other branches of buſineſs, will be gradually extended and improved.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The pariſh enjoys no peculiar advantages over thoſe in the neighbourhood along the coaſt of Fife. Its diſadvantages are, the want of ſhelter, which expoſes it to the blaſt from every quarter. Its angular ſituation, which circumſcribes its intercourſe to a ſmall diſtrict of country, and a ſcarcity of running water, which diſcourages the introduction of any manufacture which requires

ſeems deſerving of notice, is a ſtone which ſtands upon a ſmall tumulus, between Crail and Sauchop. A croſs is rudely ſculptured upon it. Concerning the time or occaſion of its erection, there is no tradition.

quires the aid of powerful machinery. The greateſt diſadvantage of all is the badneſs of the preſent harbour, which only admits ſmall veſſels, is dangerous to take in bad weather, and in ſouth eaſterly winds affords but indifferent ſhelter. It has frequently proved fatal to the fiſhermen, who often for many days together cannot go out or in with ſafety, while boats from the harbours to the weſtward experience no inconveniency. A little to the eaſt of the town, there is a ſmall bay or opening among the rocks, called *Rome*, for what reaſon is not known, which at a moderate expenſe might be made an excellent harbour. It would have a good depth of water, could be eaſily taken in all weathers, would be advantageous for a more perfect proſecution of the fiſhery, and of very conſiderable uſe to the coaſting veſſels, when turning either up or down the frith in blowing weather. This is probably the place called the *old harbour* in ſome of the charters belonging to the town.

Character of the People.—Of the character of his people, a miniſter ought to ſpeak with caution in a publication of this kind. To record their vices would argue imprudence, as tending rather to irritate than to reform. To trumpet forth their praiſe would ſavour of adulation. In no material feature of their character do the people here differ from their neighbours. The credulity of former times with reſpect to witches is almoſt extinguiſhed, and the little ſuperſtitious fancies, which ſo frequently prevail among the commonalty, are gradually loſing ground. The practice of inoculating for the ſmall-pox has been much retarded, partly by religious ſcruples, and partly by the expenſe of medical aid. To the cleanneſs and commodiouſneſs of their habitations, they are beginning to pay greater attention than formerly. When dreſſed they are decently neat, rather

ther than ſine. If they are not remarkable for ſobriety and induſtry, neither do they deſerve to be ſtigmatized as diſſipated and idle. Their ideas and ſentiments are gradually acquiring a greater degree of liberality. The ordinances of religion are reſpected, a tolerable decorum of manners is obſerved, though here there are exceptions as well as in every numerous ſociety; as ſubjects they are peaceable and loyal, and by no means fond of "meddling with thoſe who are given to change."

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Formerly there were four corn-mills in the pariſh. At preſent there are only two; one of them is turned by ſalt water, admitted during flood-tide into a reſervoir, and diſcharged upon the wheel after the tide has ebbed. The pariſh is rated at about 50 plough-gates. For them the ſtatute-labour is generally paid in kind. It is commuted to private houſeholders. The ſum may amount to L. 12 or L. 14 a-year. The road leading from Anſtruther to St Andrew's, and paſſing through Crail, is in tolerable repair. The ſtatute-labour is perfectly ſufficient to uphold it; and if applied with vigour, might annually do ſomething to the other roads within the pariſh. If the middle road to St Andrew's were made, it would tend greatly to the improvement of the interior part of the country. The price of labour and proviſions is nearly the ſame as in other parts of Fife. James Shairp was ſettled miniſter of Crail in 1648. He continued to hold the living till he was conſecrated archbiſhop of St Andrew's, after the Reſtoration. From the ſeſſion records, it appears. he was a ſtrict diſciplinarian. The rigid preſbyterian parſon differed in *circumſtances*, rather than in *character*, from the rigorous metropolitan. Of the many reſpectable gentlemen, who at different times received the rudiments of their education at the ſchool of Crail, Lord Dunſinnan, Sir

Charles Middleton, Sir William Erſkine, Colonel Monypenny and Colonel Moncrieff of the Engineers, have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in public life. This laſt gentleman is a native of the pariſh. It would be difficult to ſtate with any degree of exactneſs, how many acres are under the different kinds of crops, or what may be the produce.

NOTE.

Births, marriages and deaths of inhabitants in Crail, town and pariſh, for the year 1792, ſtand as follows:

Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
49	11	35
Males 23—Females 26.		Males 14—Females 21.

Of thoſe who died, there were 8 under 20 years of age,

2 between 20 and 30,	7 between 60 and 70,
1 —— 30 —— 40,	8 —— 70 —— 80,
2 —— 40 —— 50,	3 —— 80 —— 90,
4 —— 50 —— 60,	

Diſeaſes of which they died, claſſed according to the ideas of their friends:

I. Febrile Diſeaſes.		IV. Local Diſeaſes.	
Continued fever, -	3	Iliac paſſion, - -	1
Conſumption of the lungs,	3		
Nervous fever, -	1	V. Anomalous Diſeaſes.	
Putrid fever and ſore throats,	2	Diſeaſe unknown, -	1
Total,	—	Caſualties, drowned, -	1
	9	Childbed, - -	1
II. Nervous Diſeaſes.		Hyſterical, - -	1
Apoplexy, - -	2	Decay of nature, or aged,	11
Palſy, - - -	2	Ulcer, - -	1
	—	Sore face, -	1
Total,	4	Pain in the head, -	1
III. Cachectical Diſeaſes.			—
Dropſy of the belly, -	1	Total,	19
Jaundice, - -	1		
	—		
Total,	2		

NUM-

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF FYVIE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF TURREFF.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MOIR.

Extent, River, &c.

THE pariſh of Fyvie, though of conſiderable extent, affords not much matter for Statiſtical Information; concerning the etymology of the name, I never heard even a conjecture hazarded. It is about 13 miles in length, and 8 in breadth; ſuppoſed to contain about 20 or 22,000 acres, 8000 of which may be under culture, 1200 in plantations and natural woods; the remainder, moſſes, heath, and rough paſture graſs. The ſmall river Ithan, which takes its riſe about 5 or 6 miles above this, after paſſing through the pariſh of Auchterleſs, and a part of Turriff, divides this pariſh nearly into two equal parts, and falls into the ſea at the Newburgh, a ſmall village in the pariſh of Foveran. On this river, there are two ſalmon fiſhings, one at the mouth of it, and the other at Ellon, where there are cruives, which prevent the ſalmon from getting this length, except in great floods, and at ſpawning time. But what this ſmall river is remarkable for, is, the pearls that are ſometimes found in it. In the years 1762 and 1763, there was a conſiderable number found in it, many of which ſold from 1s. to 6s. 8s. and 10s. the pearl, and there were two of them ſo large as to ſell, the one at L. 2, and the other at L. 3 Sterling.

Surface, ſoil, &c.—The ſurface is very uneven, a great part being barren hills covered with heath; a great part of them, however, appears to have been once in a cultivated ſtate, as is evident from the ridges that are ſtill perceptible on them. Some of them have of late been planted. The Honourable General Gordon of Fyvie, the patron and principal heritor, has of late incloſed and planted above 1000 acres with oak, aſh, plane, beech, larch, pine, and common firs, all which are in a thriving condition. The ſoil is various, but in general kindly, and yields pretty good early crops of bear and oats, eſpecially in the neighbourhood of the church and Fyvie Caſtle. The more remote parts, particularly near the moſſes and moors, are of a colder nature and later. They are, however, capable of improvement, and a great part has of late been conſiderably improved; there being few or none of the farmers who have not a part of their fields in turnip and potatoes, and afterwards laid down in clover and rye graſs. The writer of this was among the firſt, who ſet them the example by ſowing graſs-ſeeds in the open fields, which, ſucceeding very well, others were induced to follow the example. The time of ſowing varies according to the ſeaſon, and nature of the ſoil. It is commonly from the beginning or middle of March to the middle of April, for oats. Bear is ſown in the end of April, and throughout the month of May. They begin to reap in the month of September, and in early ſeaſons ſooner. Oxen are generally employed in ploughing. Some uſe 8 oxen, others 10, and ſome 12, others 4 horſes, and ſome 2 horſes and 2 oxen. The plough uſed for all theſe is on the model of the Engliſh one, except in very ſtony ground, where the Scotch one is employed. The rents are pretty reaſonable, excepting ſmall crofts, which generally give 30s. and upwards the acre, beſides ſervices and mill-multures, ſo often taken notice of in this work, as unfa-

vourable

vourable to the induſtrious huſbandman. It is impoſſible to aſcertain what quantity of grain may be annually produced in the pariſh; but it is certin, that a large quantity is ſold yearly out of it, over and above what is paid to the heritors as a part of their rent*.

Air and Diſeaſes.—The air in general is reckoned pure and healthy. There have been no prevalent diſtempers for ſome time, except the putrid ſore throat, which raged about two years ago, and proved fatal to ſeveral people. It has appeared alſo this winter, but is not ſo violent and as formerly. The ſmall pox alſo carries off ſome, as inoculation is not very common.

Character, &c. of the People.—They are in general decent and well behaved; ſeldom frequenting the inn or tavern, but upon very particular occaſions; generally ſympathizing with thoſe in diſtreſs, and ready to give them ſuch aſſiſtance as they can afford. Their houſes are in general more neat and comfortable than they were 30 years ago. Their dreſs and manner of living are alſo improved.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—There are 8 heritors in the pariſh, The Honourable General Gordon of Fyvie, Earl of Aberdeen, Miſs Innes of the Moors of Fyvie, Gordon's Hoſpital, Aberdeen, James Leſlie of Rothy, John Forbes of Blackford, James Gordon of Littlefolla, and James Hay of Monkſhill. Only 3 of them reſide. General Gordon being one of the Gentlemen of the Bed-chamber to his Majeſty, reſides only occaſionally at Fyvie Caſtle, which ſtands in

* *Servants Wages* —Servants wages have riſen greatly within a few years, and are ſtill riſing. The writer of this, paid to the firſt man ſervant he had 15 s. in the half year, and to a woman-ſervant 12 s. but now the men cannot be got under L. 3 or L. 4; and the women demand L. 1, 5 s. and L. 1, 10 s.

in a fertile and pleasant plain on the banks of the Ithan; the surrounding eminences being covered with firs, and other forest trees. When the addition, which is at present making to the house is finished, it will be one of the largest and most commodious houses in the county. The present rent of the parish may be from L. 2500 to L. 3000 Sterling. In 1634, there was a valuation of the parish made, in order to fix the value of the teinds, which I subjoin, to show the then proprietors, and rental of the parish *.

Church,

	Merks Scots.	Bear.		Meal		Malt.
		Chal.	Bol.	Chal.	Bol	Bolls.
* Earl of Dumfermline,	—	3		47		
Patrick Urquhart of Lethenty,	—	3		6		
John Gordon of Kirktoun,	—	—	—	1	4	4
Andrew Meldrum, burgess of Aberdeen, for Cowhill,	60					
Lands belonging to ditto,	—	—	—	3		
Lands belonging to Elizabeth Seaton, relict of John Urquhart of Craigfintray,	—	—	—	25		
William Forbes of Falquhone,	300	—	—	1	4	
Andrew Meldrum of the Muirs,	1000	—	—	1	12	4
William Gordon of Terfperfie,	—	—	—	10		
Walter Berkley of Towie,				3		
Alex. Gardyne younger of Blackford,	—	—	—	1	8	
Sir Geo. Gordon younger of Gight,	—	—	—	8	14	2
Lethenty belong to Geo. Gordon of Lethenty,	—	—	—	1		
John Gordon of Ardlogie,	—	—	—	4	12	4
William Hay of Fetterletter,	—	—	—	5		
Nath. Gordon of Monkshill,	—	—	—	1	4	4
Robert Meldrum of Overrothy,	—	—	—	1		
	1360	6		121	10	18

By this valuation, the rent of the parish, at that time, was 1360 merks Scots money, 6 chalders of bear, 121 chalders 10 bolls of meal, and 1 chalder 2 bolls of malt.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church is an old building 90 feet in length within the walls, and 22 feet wide. It was repaired in 1776, at which time the ſeſſion gave L. 20 for liberty to erect a loft or gallery in the weſt end, the ſeats of which they let at a moderate rent, for the benefit of the poor, for which they draw about 10 *per cent.* for their money. There is an old deſk in the church, erected by one Watſon in 1502, which is ſtill quite freſh and ſound. It is now one of the beſt and moſt commodious old churches in the county.—The manſe was built in 1762, but the offices ſtand greatly in need of repairs. The ſtipend was augmented in 1783, and is 1000 merks, including communion-element-money, and 6 chalders of victual, one of which is bear. The glebe is ſmall, and in 4 different parcels. Patron, General Gordon. Near the church, on the banks of the Ithan, are the ruins of a priory, ſaid to be founded by Fergus Earl of Buchan, in the year 1179, and his donation of it to the Abbacy of Arbroath was afterwards confirmed by Margaret, Counteſs of Buchan, his daughter, who married Sir William Cumming, Knt. who, by that marriage, became Earl of Buchan. From the appearance of the foundations, which were extant ſome years ago, it ſhould ſeem to have been 3 ſides of a court, the middle of which was the church, and the 2 ſides the cells and offices of the monks. It does not ſeem to have been richly endowed, for the lands that belonged to it in this neighbourhood, amount only to L. 200 Sterl. of rent at this day.—To the weſt of the church is the pariſh-ſchool, which in ſummer is generally attended by about 30 children, and 40 in winter. The ſalary is paid to the maſter in meal, by the farmers and crofters, which he is obliged to collect, and amounts (if exactly paid) to 12 bolls of meal annually. The fees of the ſcholars are low. He has L. 2 as ſeſſion-clerk; and here, it is but juſtice to obſerve, that the

the education of youth is at preſent carried on at this ſchool on the moſt approved plan; and beſides what is generally taught at grammar ſchools, the French and Engliſh languages are taught here with as much purity and exactneſs as in moſt of the Engliſh academies, (the preſent maſter having been ſeveral years in one of the beſt academies in the neighbourhood of London), a circumſtance which deſerves to be remarked, as few country pariſhes enjoy the like advantages.—The number on the poor's roll at preſent amounts to 24. The only funds for their ſupport are the weekly collections, fines, mortcloth-money, and the rent of the above mentioned gallery. There are few in the pariſh who go about begging, except in very hard times.

Roads.—The public road from Aberdeen to Banff, goes through the pariſh. It is kept in pretty good repair by the ſtatute-labour. There is a poſt-office on it at Leſſes of Fyvie, not far from the church.

Manufactures.—The manufacture in which the women are chiefly employed, is that of ſpinning wool, and knitting it into hoſe. The hoſe manufacturers in Aberdeen come out to different ſtations every 4 weeks, and give out their wool, which they receive knit into ſtockings. Thus, the workers are not put to the trouble and expenſe of providing materials for their work, but receive their wages punctually when their work is done. Several of the men-ſervants alſo employ themſelves in the winter evenings, in knitting their own ſtockings. A much better way of employing their time than frequenting the ale-houſe, of which there are only 3 in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Articles.—There are in the pariſh 13 corn-mills, in each of which there is a fanner and winnower, turned by the machinery of the mill, which not only facilitates

litates the peoples labour, but enables them to work in good and bad weather; 2 fulling-mills, a barley-mill, and a lint-mill, which was erected in 1782, before which time there was ſcarce any lint-ſeed ſown in the pariſh; but now there are few farmers who do not ſow ſome quantity. There is one threſhing machine, and another going to be erected, which is to be wrought by water. There are few farmers who have not a winnower in their barns.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population then was 2528. The number of ſouls at preſent in the pariſh is 2194, of which 1059 are males, 1135 females, 22 widowers, 74 widows; 300 Diſſenters, of whom 3 are Roman Catholics, 12 Seceders, and the reſt Nonjurors, who have 2 places of worſhip in the pariſh. The births and burials are not exactly regiſtered, the ſmall tax impoſed operating as a kind of prohibition; but, from the beſt information that could be procured, the following is an average of the births, burials and marriages for 4 years preceding 1793, viz. Births, males 29, females 26, in all 55; burials, males 25, females 22, in all 47; marriages 11.

Tradeſmen.—Shoemakers 9, weavers 10, ſmiths 7, tailors 10, wrights 11, dyers 2. There is alſo a midwife regularly bred to the buſineſs at the expenſe of the ſeſſion.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF DRON,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.*)

By the Rev. Mr DAVID DOW.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THE preſent and ancient name of this pariſh, as far back as can be traced, is *Dron*. *Dronn*, in the Gaelic language, is ſaid to ſignify a 'Ridge or Projection, a Hunch or Bunch;' and this probably is the true etymology of the name; for it is obviouſly deſcriptive of its ſituation, of that part at leaſt where the church and manſe are placed. They ſtand on the eaſtern extremity of a riſing ground, detached from

* In order to give ſome idea of the populouſneſs of this part of the country, it may not be improper to obſerve, that there are 20 pariſhes in this preſbytery excluſive of the town of Perth, all of which lie round it as their common centre, and are all, except 4, within 6 miles of it. Theſe 4 are about 9 or 10 miles diſtant from Perth. Six pariſhes lie ſouth of Earn; 8, north of Tay; and the reſt, including Perth itſelf, between the Earn and the Tay.

from the hills, and formed like a ridge, ſloping on every ſide to the N. and S. extending weſtward with a gradual aſcent, and terminating a little beyond a farm, which lies on the moſt elevated part of it, and is named Weſt Dron. There are ſeveral other places in different parts of the country, which have the ſame name of Dron; and they have all a ſituation ſomewhat ſimilar. The pariſh is ſituated about a mile S. of the river Earn, and 5 miles S. E. of the town of Perth. It extends in length from E. to W. between 3 and 4 miles, including a narrow ſtrip of the lands of Pitkeathly, in Dumbarnie pariſh, which interſects it, and in breadth from N. to S. about 3 miles. The principal and lower part, ſtretches, in a ſloping poſition, along the bottom of the Ochil hills, which form the ſouthern boundary of the rich and beautiful vale of Strathearn, and preſents to the view of the traveller, paſſing along the great road which leads from Perth to Kinghorn and the Queensferry, a very agreeeable proſpect of well cultivated and incloſed fields. The face of the hills here is various. In ſome places they exhibit an irregular and broken ſurface, roughened by projecting rocks, and overgrown with furze; but even there, conſiderable patches of corn-land, producing barley and oats, are to be ſeen interſperſed. In others the deſcent is more ſmooth and regular, uniformly green, and adorned with ſtrips and clumps of plantation. Some are covered with an extenſive wood of firs, birch, aſh, &c. which at once ornaments the proſpect and enriches the country. When fully grown, it will afford a copious ſupply of timber for all neceſſary uſes, an article grown ſcarce, and much wanted here. A few farms, more extenſive than rich, occupy the higher part of the pariſh, being ſituated on the ſummit of the Ochil hills.

Climate

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The higher ground poſſeſſes, from its elevated ſituation, a pure and wholeſome air, though rather keen and piercing; but the lower part of the pariſh cannot boaſt of ſo pure an atmoſphere, for it is often loaded with moiſt vapours, the common exhalations of deep and narrow vallies, where ſlow rivers wind their courſe, and where much of the ſurface is covered during winter with ſtagnated water. The exiſtence of agues, fluxes, rheumatiſm, and other kindred diſorders of the human frame, is the natural conſequence of ſuch a ſtate of atmoſphere. It cannot, however, be ſaid, that the inhabitants, tho' occaſionally attacked by theſe diſorders, are in general unhealthy. Nature and habit have a wonderful power to form the conſtitution to its local reſidence and deſtination in life. Agues, formerly of a ſevere and tedious kind, were very prevailing; the returns of ſpring and autumn never failed to bring along with them this fatal diſeaſe, and frequently laid aſide many of the labouring hands, at a time when their work was of the greateſt conſequence and neceſſity. For ſeveral years, however, this diſeaſe, ſo enfeebling to the human ſyſtem, has in a great meaſure ceaſed. This happy change may be owing in part to a different mode of living, and in part, probably, to the better and more general cultivation of the ſoil, conſidered as a ſource of more pure and wholeſome air. In this neighbourhood, large tracts of mooriſh ground, which lay totally neglected, and covered with water in winter and ſpring, have lately been broken up, drained, and brought under tillage, or planted with timber, which abſorbs and exhauſts the ſuperfluous moiſture. Conſumptions are rather more frequent than formerly among the young, and often ſeemingly healthy and vigorous. They are no doubt ſometimes owing to a radical weakneſs of conſtitution, but more frequently to ſedentary occupations, damp houſes, crowding the ſick and the healthy together in

in one bed, and to the pernicious cuſtom of expoſing themſelves, in a ſtate of violent perſpiration, to the ſudden impreſſions of cold. A large draught of cold water, in this ſtate, has often proved the beginning of conſumptions and dropſies *.

Rivers, Springs, Minerals.—Though there are no rivers which run through this pariſh, yet it is plentifully ſupplied with water, by ſprings and little currents which deſcend from the hills. The only river which borders on the pariſh, and divides it from Abernethy, is Farg. It riſes in the

* Scorbutic habits are not uncommon; being every where, in a leſs or greater degree, to be met with. But nature has provided a remedy for this diſorder in the mineral waters of Pitkeathly in this neighbourhood, which have proved very effectual in ſome of the worſt and moſt inveterate appearances of this malady, as alſo a ſucceſsful palliative in ſcrofulous diſorders. The ſmall-pox, through improper management, by keeping the patients too hot, and too long in their foul linen and clothes, and through the ſtill-prevailing averſion of the lower claſſes of the people to the ſalutary practice of inoculation, continue to carry off great numbers of children. It is difficult to convince that part of mankind whoſe minds have not been opened by education and reflection, that any innovation on the cuſtoms of their fathers can with propriety or ſafety be introduced. A ſuperſtitious dread of acting contrary to the will of heaven, by introducing diſeaſe into the human frame, not inflicted by the immediate hand of Providence, is the ſentiment which deters the weak but well-meaning peaſant, from adopting the practice of inoculation. But daily inſtances of its happy effects begin to wear off this prejudice, and experience and obſervation have enabled many perſons to get the better of thoſe ill-grounded ſcruples, which they once thought it a part of religion to entertain. Another very fatal diſeaſe among children, and very prevailing, is that of worms; which cuts off many, debilitates the conſtitution of more, and is frequently attended with very violent and ſhocking ſymptoms. No effectual remedy ſeems to be known for extirpating theſe pernicious vermin from the human conſtitution, when once, by neglecting to apply an early check, they have been ſuffered to obtain a ſeat in the bowels. Bad water, in its raw ſtate, and unripe fruit, contribute greatly to introduce and ſtrengthen this habit, ſo common and troubleſome to children.

the Ochil hills, about 5 or 6 miles above, and runs through a deep and narrow glen for a conſiderable way, before it iſſues into the plain; and after a ſhort courſe directly north it bends to the eaſt, and loſes itſelf in the river Earn, at a place, which derives its name from it, called Culfargie. Though this river is often almoſt dry in ſummer, yet after long continued rains, or heavy ſummer ſhowers, it ſwells into a dreadful torrent, and burſts from its narrow channel into the level of the Strath, with ſuch irreſiſtible impetuoſity as to ſweep all before it. It abounds with fine trout, and is the ſcene of an agreeable amuſement to the angler in the proper ſeaſon. Mineral ſprings are frequent here, and by their ſcum and ſediment, indicate the exiſtence of metals in the neighbouring mountains. They are moſtly of the chalybeate kind, but are not uſed for any medicinal purpoſe, though, if tried, they might probably be found of ſervice for bracing the ſtomach and nerves. There are ſome veins of limeſtone in the pariſh; but what has yet been diſcovered, is of an inferior kind. It is not however improbable, that if fuel could be procured for burning it at a moderate expenſe, veins of good lime might be found on a more accurate ſearch; an article of great importance to the farmer, who at preſent is obliged to import it from Lord Elgin's lime-works at Charleſtown, or to bring it in carts from the hills of Fife, the Lomonds, or Forthar, at the diſtance of 8 or 10 miles. There is ſome free-ſtone; but ſeldom wrought, except on a particular demand. The appearances of coal are ſo great, that many attempts have been made to diſcover it, by digging, boring, &c. but hitherto without ſucceſs. Three different trials have been made within this pariſh ſince the year 1758, and ſanguine hopes have been entertained, but as often diſappointed. Our neareſt coal-mines are at Keltie, at the diſtance of 18 miles

miles ſouth, from whence they are uſually brought in carts during ſummer, for the ſupply of all this country ſouth of Perth. There is no moſs nearer than 8 or 9 miles. This ſcarcity of fuel is ſeverely felt by the lower claſſes of the people, who having neither cattle nor carriages of their own, muſt purchaſe it from others who have, at a dear rate.

Agriculture, &c.—The ſoil in the lower diviſion of the pariſh, though various, according as it approaches to the bottom of the hills, or the level of the Strath, is in general ſtrong and fertile, conſiſting partly of clay, till, and loam, producing plentiful crops of wheat, beans, peaſe, barley, graſs, oats, which is the uſual rotation obſerved here. Turnip and potato are not yet raiſed in any great quantities, ſtill leſs cabbage and yams. The nature of the ſoil does not ſeem adapted for the culture of flax, being too ſtiff and moiſt; little therefore is raiſed, except for domeſtic uſe. The ſoil of thoſe farms which lie on the hills is of a lighter kind, ſhallow, and interſperſed with rock, lying at the bottom of the furrow, and frequently jutting out above the ſurface. But in the flats and hollows the ſoil is good, and produces very tolerable crops, chiefly of barley and oats, peaſe only in ſmall quantities. Of late wheat has been cultivated with ſucceſs, as alſo graſs. Large tracts, however, in theſe farms are unfit for cultivation, and only afford an extenſive range of indifferent paſture for cattle. No ſheep are now kept there, though the paſture is better adapted for that uſeful ſpecies of animals than any other, becauſe they are ſo apt to ſtray into the neighbouring incloſures, and ſo injurious to fences. From the elevated ſituation of theſe farms, they are much expoſed to ſuffer from high winds and late harveſts.—Improvements in agriculture

ture have, within theſe laſt 20 or 30 years, made a rapid progreſs. Much uncultivated ground has been broken up, and is now become, through the united efforts of labour, ſkill, and expenſe, capable of producing good crops of every ſpecies of grain. Fields which formerly lay open and expoſed, and were ploughed in a careleſs and irregular manner, are now incloſed, ſtraighted, and ſubdivided. The fences, for moſt part, conſiſt of ditch and thorn hedge, often too ſlight, and too much neglected, to prove either effectual or durable. Some are conſtructed on a better plan; a ſtrong high earth fence, with a row of thorns on each ſide, intermixed with trees of all ſorts. Formerly wheat crops were rare and ſcanty, becauſe raiſed on ſoil ill prepared to produce it; but now great quantities of this grain are ſown on every large farm, on ground thoroughly fallowed, and manured with dung and lime. One great improvement in rural œconomy is the introduction of threſhing mills, which the principal farmers are now every where erecting, at a great expenſe, from L. 30 to L. 100, and above. As there is no convenient acceſs to water here, theſe machines are all worked by 3 or 4 horſes, and require 7 or 8 hands to carry on the operation. By this mode, 70 bolls of grain have been cleaned and prepared for the field or the market in a few hours. The number of ploughs is reckoned to be about 25; but this is occaſionally increaſed, eſpecially in the ſpring, in order to carry on the operations of that important ſeaſon, with vigour and expedition. Every plough is drawn by 2 horſes, without any driver, as the man who guides the plough has the entire command of them, by means of a long rein, which paſſes from their heads to his hand, and reſts on a hook inſerted in the ſtilts. The plough in common uſe is the Scotch plough,

plough, conſtructed on the ſame principles, but of neater workmanſhip, and with ſome improvements, ſuch as an iron head, and a bended plate of yetlin or Carron manufacture, for a mould-board. The practice of uſing oxen in the plough, which till of late was ſo general, is now entirely diſuſed; but conſidering the high price of horſes, the greater expenſe of their food and furniture, and in caſe of accidents, their being totally unproductive of any reverſion to the owner, it may be a queſtion, whether labour might not be carried on with much leſs expenſe by oxen, eſpecially in thoſe farms where the fields lie in a ſloping or hanging poſition, as they are known to pull more ſteadily than horſes. This practice would likewiſe have a tendency, by leſſening the demand, to reduce the preſent exorbitant price of horſes.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the population at that time amounted to 598. About the end of laſt, and beginning of this century, the inhabitants of this pariſh have been much more numerous than they are at preſent. This fact is evinced by comparing the number of baptiſms, (for we have no preciſe regiſter of births), in one year, as marked in the ſeſſion-records during theſe different periods. Another proof of it ariſes from the evident veſtiges of ſeveral hamlets or little villages, which formerly were the reſidence of petty farmers, cottagers, and tradeſmen, but are now either totally ſuppreſſed, or exiſt only in a ſtate of viſible decay.

TABLE of Baptiſms, as inſerted in the Pariſh Regiſter for 21 years, in the beginning of this century, and for the ſame number of years preceding 1791.

Year.	Num.	Males.	Fem.	Year.	Num.	Males.	Fem.
In 1700,	23	12	11	1770	8	5	3
1701,	20	8	12	1771	9	3	6
1702,	15	8	7	1772	8	2	6
1703,	23	12	11	1773	8	5	3
1704,	21	11	10	1774	10	6	4
1705,	20	9	11	1775	8	5	3
1706,	20	8	12	1776	13	6	7
1707,	25	19	6	1777	19	5	14
1708,	18	8	10	1778	8	3	5
1709,	26	14	12	1779	11	3	8
1710,	21	11	10	1780	11	4	7
1711,	20	16	4	1781	12	6	6
1712,	17	11	6	1782	15	4	11
1713,	21	13	8	1783	9	3	6
1714,	16	8	8	1784	14	9	5
1715,	13	8	5	1785	13	8	5
1716,	19	11	8	1786	8	4	4
1717,	18	10	8	1787	13	8	5
1718,	18	9	9	1788	14	9	5
1719,	21	8	13	1789	11	6	5
1720,	17	9	8	1790	12	8	4
Total,	412	223	189		234	112	122
Average, in a year,	$19\frac{13}{21}$	$10\frac{13}{21}$	9		$11\frac{3}{21}$	$5\frac{7}{21}$	$5\frac{17}{21}$*

By

* There is no exact regiſter of deaths. The only calculation, therefore, which can be made of them, ariſes from the uſe of the mortcloths, which are uſually two at leaſt in every pariſh, and being paid for when given out, the money is ſtated to account of caſh received for the poor But this is ſo inaccurate a ſtatement in reſpect of real deaths in the pariſh, that no

By the laſt account which was taken of the number of ſouls in this pariſh about 18 years ago, when there was a propoſal for embodying the Scotch militia, they amounted to 500, at preſent they do not exceed 450, which is a decreaſe of one-tenth part in ſo ſhort a period. This no doubt is principally owing to the modern practice of uniting ſeveral farms into one, and the ſuppreſſing of cottagers. Whatever advantages may ariſe either to the landholder or tenant from this practice, it is evidently attended with ſeveral inconveniences to themſelves, and to the country in general. Small farms and little villages, conſiſting of cottagers and tradeſmen, were the nurſeries of young perſons of both ſexes, and afforded a conſtant ſupply of ſervants, and plenty of hands for labour on every occaſion. From the ſame ſource, the market was plentifully furniſhed with poultry, butter, cheeſe, &c at a reaſonable rate. Perhaps the preſent difficulty of procuring ſervants, the great advance of their wages, the ſcarcity of hands for reaping the corns in harveſt, and the exorbitant demands now made for their work in that ſeaſon, with ſeveral other hardſhips, all ſenſibly felt by the farmers themſelves, and the ſubject of general complaint, may, in time, induce them to recur to

no certain concluſion can be drawn from it. For many of the inhabitants are buried in other pariſhes, and conſequently our mortcloths are not uſed. And for ſeveral poor people it is not demanded, or it is given *gratis*. In theſe caſes, the death of ſuch perſons is not inſerted in the pariſh-regiſter. The record of marriages is likewiſe very inaccurate. Indeed there is reaſon to ſuſpect, that until theſe public regiſters are put on a better footing, the concluſions deduced from them will not be very exact. An accurate regiſter of births and deaths, ſpecifying the age of each perſon at their death, and the diſtempers of which they die, &c. would afford very ſatisfactory evidence with reſpect to the objects in view by ſuch enquiries as the preſent. But to anſwer this purpoſe, ſome ſmall ſalary might be neceſſary to the ſeſſion-clerk or ſchoolmaſter, and would be a very acceptable, indeed neceſſary addition to their poor livings.

to the old practice of encouraging theſe little plantations of uſeful and induſtrious labourers. By the ſuppreſſion of theſe, it may likewiſe be obſerved, a number of people, who, from their manner of life and employment in the country, were a healthy vigorous race, have been, for the preſent, forced to ſeek a ſubſiſtence in the neighbouring cities; where the nature of their occupations, confined apartments and unwholeſome air, are by no means favourable circumſtances for the increaſe of population, or the health of the individual.

Diviſion of the Inhabitants, Morals, &c.—The principal heritors of the pariſh are 6, none of whom reſide. There are 2 or 3 feuars who hold of the proprietor of the lands of Potty; they poſſeſs a few acres and reſide. There are about 14 farmers, who rent land from L. 20, L. 30, or L. 50 to L. 100, L. 200, and L. 300. The reſt of the inhabitants are tradeſmen or artificers, a few cottagers and day-labourers. Theſe laſt, and a few young men who hire themſelves for domeſtic ſervice in the winter, are employed in ditching, draining, fiſhing, and working on the roads during the ſummer ſeaſon. This increaſes the difficulty of procuring men ſervants, and enhances their wages. It may likewiſe be obſerved, that the increaſe of the linen manufacture, and the late introduction of machinery into that department, occaſion a ſcarcity of female-ſervants. Many young women, who uſed to go into ſervice, find it more advantageous to ſtay at home and ſpin for the manufacturer, or to purchaſe lint and diſpoſe of the yarn. By this mode of life, they feel themſelves independent, and more at their own diſpoſal, which is no doubt an additional motive for preferring it. But they overlook the ill conſequence of their choice to health and vigour of conſtitution, which is more than a balance for all their advantages. Their ſedentary life, and

want

want of proper exercise; their eager application and scanty provision, are all circumstances which conspire to enfeeble the constitution, produce nervous disorders, and bring on sexual infirmities, which render life uncomfortable, and hurry them into premature old age*. As to the general character of the people here, it is but justice to say, that with a few exceptions, and such there always will be in every collection of human beings, they are a sober, peaceable, industrious set of persons; apparently contented in their various situations. Crimes of an atrocious or capital nature are scarcely known among them, or indeed any which require the interference of the civil judge. Even that species of licentiousness, so prevalent in many other places, I mean the illicit commerce of the sexes, is far from being frequent here. Many years elapse without a single instance of this immorality; a circumstance which deserves to be mentioned to their praise. They are in general decent and regular in their attendance on the public institutions of religion; and as far as external appearances can ascertain the character, they are to be reckoned well disposed, religious in their sentiments, and in general cautious and prudent

* *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—This article is greatly enhanced of late. In consequence of the increase of riches, the great quantity of fictitious specie by the substitution of paper or notes, by means of which almost every transaction is carried on; and on account of the scarcity of hands, by the increase of labour, workmen of all descriptions have raised their wages to nearly double of what they used to be 20 years ago. The day-labourer has from 10 d. to 1 s. a-day; carpenters, the same; masons, 1 s. 4 d.; tailors, 8 d.; all with victuals. Other tradesmen, as smiths, weavers, &c. work by the piece, and have advanced their demands in the same proportion —Perth is the market for household provisions; and is, in general, well supplied with beef, mutton, veal and pork, in their season, from 3 d. to 4 d. the lb.; also with fish from the coast of Fife, and salmon from the Tay and Earn; but both these are rather scarce and dear at present.

prudent in their conduct. There are a few families of Seceders; no Epiſcopals or Papiſts. A great change has of late taken place with reſpect to dreſs. The coarſe garb of the lower claſſes of the people, which ſatisfied their plain and homely predeceſſors, is exchanged for ſhowy and expenſive garments. On every public occaſion they exhibit an appearance of neatneſs and elegance, which a few years ago would have been conſidered as highly extravagant. As this is an agreeable object in itſelf, when kept within proper bounds; ſo it affords a proof of the increaſing riches of the country, and the growing taſte of the people. The better ſort of farmers poſſeſs good houſes and comfortable accommodation for their families; live in a ſtyle of wealth and plenty; and notwithſtanding high rents and great wages to ſervants and labourers, are able to vie with many proprietors themſelves, in point of dreſs, furniture and table: A plain proof of their ſuperior ſkill, and great improvements in agriculture *.

Stipend,

* *Language.*—The language ſpoken here is Scotch, with a provincial accent or tone; the pronunciation rather ſlow and drawling, and apt to ſtrike the ear of a ſtranger as diſagreeable. The language of all ranks, however, is improving by a more liberal education, and a more extenſive intercourſe with ſociety. No Gaelic is ſpoken here at preſent, or underſtood by the inhabitants; but it is ſaid to have been the common language, not only here in the neighbourhood of the Grampians, but even through the whole county of Fife, not above two or three generations back. An anecdote, communicated by a gentleman to the writer of this paper, gives countenance to this report: "By a letter," ſays he, "which I had from Sir James Foulis of Colington, Baronet, a number of years ago, he informed me, that when young he had it from an old man, who ſpoke Gaelic, that even in his time it was almoſt the univerſal language of Fife." Be this as it may, it appears from the names of ſeveral places here, that they are of Gaelic extraction: for inſtance, *Balmanno*, 'The Town of the Monk;' *Kilknockie*, 'A Cell or holy Ground, or Burial-place on the Hill;' *Mundie*, 'The Hill or Moſs of God;' *Tildie*, 'The Reſidence of the Bard of God, &c. Theſe names ſeem to have a reference

Stipend, School, Poor, &c.—The church and manſe are both old buildings, and have received frequent partial repairs. The latter of theſe continues, notwithſtanding, a very damp and uncomfortable habitation. The Crown is patron. The ſtipend conſiſts of a little more than 4 chalders of victual, wheat barley and meal, and L. 36 : 7 : 9 money, and a few bolls of coals. The glebe is 4 acres and about 16 falls or roods. There is no graſs; in lieu of which, the heritors pay the miniſter L. 20 Scots; a very unequal compenſation, at preſent, for the maintenance of a horſe and two cows.—There is no ſchool or ſchool-houſe in the pariſh. The ſchool, at preſent, is taught in a ſmall confined apartment, in a private houſe, and the ſchoolmaſter has a ſingle room for himſelf, in the ſame houſe; for each of theſe, the heritors pay 15 s. yearly. The ſalary is only 100 merks. The ſchool-fees are ſmall, and the other emoluments few. Theſe unfavourable circumſtances have occaſioned a rapid ſucceſſion of teachers, within theſe laſt 20 years. Every vacant ſchool is an object to a perſon who finds himſelf ſo inconveniently ſituated, and every change of a maſter interrupts and retards the education of youth.—There are no funds for the poor, except what ariſe from the weekly collections, which, as no heritor reſides, are but ſmall, and from the uſe of the mortcloths. Theſe together afford but a ſcanty proviſion for the poor. No aſſeſſment is laid upon the heritors, who, on account of their non-reſidence, contribute nothing to the funds. They have however, been indebted to the generoſity of one of the heritors, the proprietor of Potty, who has at different times voluntarily

ence to ſome religious eſtabliſhment with which they were connected; and it is not improbable they might be detached but dependent parts of the abbey of Lindores; the ruins of which ſtill remain in the vicinity of the town of Newburgh, about 6 miles from this.

voluntarily contributed to the ſupport and increaſe of the funds. The poor are happily not numerous, and none are permitted to beg. There is a ſmall piece of ground, about 7 acres, adjoining to the miniſter's glebe, which was mortified by a Mr William Bell, miniſter here, 1641, and afterward tranſlated to the pariſh of Errol, for the purpoſe of maintaining a ſtudent of divinity; the management and diſpoſal of this mortification is in the hands of the preſbytery of Perth, who let the lands, and appoint the rent to be paid annually as a burſary to the ſtudent whom they have choſen, and who continues in the poſſeſſion of it for 4 years. They are obliged to attend the univerſity of St Andrew's. The preſent rent of theſe lands is 12 guineas, excluſive of all public burdens, which are likewiſe to be paid by the tenant. Miniſters ſons in the preſbytery are preferred to all others.

Ale-houſes.—There are only 3 ale-houſes, and theſe at ſmiths ſhops, places of general reſort, where both the idle and the active meet. Every where they are the coffee-houſes of the pariſh, where all the news and reports in circulation, be they of what complexion they will, true or falſe, probable or improbable, are brought together from every quarter, and diſſeminated with a credulous aſſent over all the neighbourhood. Even the politics of the nation, are, at times, diſcuſſed here with freedom, and decided on with confidence. Theſe are, however, but harmleſs and innocent matters, compared with that pernicious cuſtom of drinking and ſoaking, of which they are too frequently the occaſion. It were much to be wiſhed, that houſes for ſelling ſpiritous liquors were leſs frequent. The pernicious practice of dram-drinking, now ſo common, in conſequence of the low price of ſpirits, and the eaſy terms on which the law allows them to be retailed, has a

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moſt unhappy influence, as well on the health as the morals of the people. Even the honeſt and induſtrious labourer is ſometimes inadvertently drawn into this deſtructive practice. Exhauſted by his daily labour, and at times by more violent exertion, he feels the neceſſity of ſome cordial to recruit the waſted powers of nature, and ſimply ſwallows a poiſon for a cordial; he feels from it a temporary flow of animal ſpirits, but is not aware that it waſtes the conſtitution it ſeems to invigorate; and when it grows into a habit, deſtroys in the end his health, his ſubſtance, and his virtue. Were ale or beer of a good quality, and moderate ſtrength, to be had at an eaſy rate, it would prove, when temperately uſed, a very wholeſome and recruiting beverage. In theſe intereſting views, it may be ſuppoſed an object worthy the attention of the Legiſlature.

Antiquities.—There have been in former times 2 ſmall chapels in this pariſh. One of theſe, which ſtood in the eaſt corner of the pariſh, is now totally in ruins, no veſtige of it remaining, except ſome part of the foundation below ground, and human ſkulls and bones, which are ſometimes dug up, or diſcovered in the face of a bank, where the ſoil is waſhed away by the impetuous torrents of the Farg, on the verge of which it has ſtood, juſt at the place where it iſſues from the mountains into the plain. The other is in the weſt end of the pariſh, and ſtill remains in a ruinous ſtate; the walls are tolerably entire, with an incloſed burial-ground around it, which is ſtill the place of interment for many families in the pariſh and neighbourhood. This part of the pariſh, which is entirely ſeparated from the reſt, by an interjacent part of the pariſh of Dumbarnie, bears the name of Eccleſiamagirdle, the origin of which is uncertain; but probably has been given in honour of ſome ſaint; ſome explain it to ſignify "The church of St Mag-

"dalen." Theſe chapels may probably have been places of worſhip, erected for the conveniency of the religious in this corner, who were dependents on the Abbey of Lindores.

Singular Phenomenon.—In that part of the Ochils which fronts the houſe of Eccleſiamagirdle, a very ſingular phenomenon took place about 7 years ago. After a long ſeries of rainy weather, the hill, about 100 paces from the ſummit, burſt open with a loud exploſion like thunder, which was heard at the diſtance of two miles acroſs the valley. A violent and rapid torrent, mixed with earth and ſtone, and broken rock, iſſued from the opening, and ruſhed down with an impetuoſity which ſwept all before it; the inhabitants of ſome houſes which ſtood immediately below, alarmed at once with the noiſe and torrent, which directed its courſe full towards them, were preparing to flee for their ſafety, when happily the torrent deviated into a different tract, and after continuing to flow for 10 or 12 hours, it ceaſed, without having done any material injury, and has remained quiet ever ſince.

Water-Fall.—In one of thoſe chaſms or gullies, by which the face of the Ochil hills is frequently interſected, nature has formed a ſmall romantic ſcene, beautifully diverſified. Nearly oppoſite to the church and manſe, in a deep hollow, and in the concealed boſom of the gully, is a little caſcade, which, though on a humble ſcale, is a curioſity of its kind. The acceſs to it is difficult, which is by aſcending up the rivulet, which flows down a deep and narrow gulph, affording little more than a paſſage for the ſtream, where the way is obſtructed by huge ſtones, ſhelving rocks, furze, and ſpots of marſh. The difficulty of the aſcent, however, is abundantly compenſated by the romantic variety of the

ſcene. You ſee the current ſliding from rock to rock, or guſhing into little cavities formed by its perpetual lapſe, pleaſing at once the eye and the ear by its murmurs and meanders. When you reach the fall itſelf, you enter a kind of open grotto, ſurrounded with rocks, and ſhaded with trees, whoſe tops nearly cloſe over the head, and caſt a gloom, which adds to the romantic appearance of the ſcene. The precipice itſelf, which is directly in front, is a rugged perpendicular rock, which bends itſelf on each ſide into a ſemicircular form, incloſing a neat pebbly baſon, into which the deſcending torrent throws itſelf. In its uſual ſtate it is but a ſcanty rill; but when ſwelled by winter rains or burſts of thunder clouds, it aſſumes a formidable aſpect, rolls along a deep and turbid ſtream, and guſhes over the rock from its narrow channel with violence and precipitation, daſhing into the pool below with a hideous noiſe, which ſtuns the ear, and reverberates from rock to rock on every ſide.

Rocking Stone.—On the ſouth deſcent of the hill, oppoſite to the church and manſe, ſtands what is called the Rocking ſtone of Dron, preſenting at once a monument of ancient ingenuity and ſuperſtition. It is a large maſs of whinſtone, of an irregular figure, about 10 feet in length, and 7 in breadth, and ſtands in a ſloping direction. On gently preſſing the higher end with the finger, it has a perceptible motion, vibrating in an arch of between one and two inches, and the vibration continues for ſome time after the preſſure is removed. It is placed on a flat ſtone in the earth, which, doubtleſs, has a ſmall, though inviſible excavation, to receive its centrical prominence, and to prevent it being thrown off its balance. Neither Buchanan, who has mentioned the rocking ſtone of Balvaird, in his elegant Hiſtory of Scotland, nor any other author, recollected at preſent

preſent by the writer of this, has taken any notice of the rocking ſtone of Dron. That of Balvaird ſtands at the diſtance of between 2, 3 miles eaſt, on the banks of the Faig, in the pariſh of Abernethy; but its motion is not now perceptible, being choked up with earth and gravel cloſe to its centre. For what particular purpoſes theſe ſtones, ſo artfully formed, were erected, is at this diſtance of time a matter rather of conjecture than certainty; but little doubt can be entertained, that they were deſigned to be the ſilent inſtruments of impoſition on the credulity and ignorance of the vulgar; the ingenious but diſhoneſt contrivance of the prieſt, or the politician, to ſerve their own intereſted views. It may be obſerved here, as a ſort of curioſity, that from the great height of the Ochil hills, a number of houſes in this pariſh, which lie at the foot of theſe hills, are deprived of the ſun for 3 months of the winter, from the beginning of November to the beginning of February, during which period, the rigours of that ſeaſon muſt be more ſeverely felt by the inhabitants; and ſcanty fires, (where fuel is ſcarce and diſtant), afford but a ſorry ſubſtitute for the chearful rays and genial influences of that all animating luminary.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF CAPUTH,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM INNERARITY.

Name, Situation and Extent.

THE ancient name of the parish was *Capoch*; its modern name is *Caputh*, and is probably derived from the Gaelic word *Keapoch*, 'a decayed wood;' but from what circumstance this name took its rise does not appear. It is situated in that district of Perthshire which is called the Stormont, and comprehends the greater part of the plain of the Stormont, (a portion of the extensive vale of Strathmore). In the Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, by Alexander Mylne *, Canon of Dunkeld, it is related, that Bishop

* He lived in the times of George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld, from 1484 to 1514, and of his successor, the celebrated Gavin Douglas, to whom his work is dedicated. The original M. S. is in the possession of the Duke of Athole.

Biſhop Brown, in the year 1500, divided the pariſh of Little Dunkeld into the old pariſh of Little Dunkeld and the pariſh of Caputh; and, "at Caputh he built, on his own charges, a quire, with painted cieling and glazed windows. He gave for the ſupport of the vicar, a vicarage, which had been formerly united to his own ſee, four acres of glebe-land, and the riſing ground called the Mute Hill *, to build a church upon." The pariſh is ſingular in its extent; for beſides what lies contiguous, there are ſeveral diſtinct unconnected portions belonging to it, ſome in the county of Perth, and ſome in the county of Forfar, 8 or 10, and even 20 or 25 miles from the church †. It is difficult to give a ſatisfactory reaſon for ſuch peculiarities. May it not be ſuppoſed, that thoſe diſtant places belonged anciently to ſome conſiderable proprietors in this pariſh, whoſe deſire of having all their eſtates in one pariſh ‡, occaſioned theſe extraordinary

* Hence it appears, that the mount on which the church is built, (now called the Kirkhill), was the place where, in ancient times, public juſtice was adminiſtered. It ſtands 260 yards from the bank of the Tay, on a gentle declivity, in a beautiful and romantic ſituation.

† Theſe it ſeems not improper to enumerate: Balholmie, locally ſituated in the pariſh of Cargill; Weſt and Middle Gormack, in Kinloch; Eaſt and Weſt Logie, Cairns, Chappelton, Meadows and Grofty, in Clunie; and Craigtown of Dalrulzian, in Kirkmichael; all in Perthſhire: And ſouth Bandirran, in Collace; Balbeuchly, in Aughterhouſe; Broughtay caſtle and fiſhings, and a ſmall piece of ground at Mylnfield, near Dundee; and Foſarty in Kinnettles; all in Forfarſhire. In Foſarty there is a field of about 4 acres called, from time immemorial, "The Miniſter of Caputh's Glebe," and is believed to belong to him, though not hitherto occupied.

‡ The following words of Dr Johnſton may ſeem to favour this conjecture: "When Chriſtianity was eſtabliſhed in this iſland, a regular mode of public worſhip was preſcribed. Public worſhip requires a public place; and the proprietors of lands, as they were converted, built churches for their families and vaſſals. For the maintenance of miniſters, they ſettled a certain portion of their lands; and a diſtrict, through which each

extraordinary annexations? Beſides theſe remote portions, (which are conſidered as belonging, *quoad ſacra*, to the pariſhes in which they are reſpectively ſituated), the pariſh is of conſiderable extent, ſtretching from N. W. to S. E. nearly 13 miles, and varying in its breadth from 1 to 6½ miles.

Soil and Land, Floods. — The ſoil is various. On the high grounds it is moſtly a cold wet clay. On the banks of the Tay and Iſla, it is in general a light loam. The ground is ſo flat, that when theſe rivers are flooded, they overflow many hundred acres. Four remarkable floods have happened in the Tay, in the courſe of 30 years, in 1761, 1780, 1789 and 1791. In the ſpring of the year 1790, in conſequence of gradual breaches made by the river on the green Inch, below Inchtuthel, two oak trees were uncovered. The trunk of the largeſt, from the root to the loweſt branch, was 40 feet 6 inches long, and contained 132 feet 9 inches of ſolid meaſure. As ſimilar oaks have been often diſcovered near the place, by means of ſimilar encroachments on the bank, in the ſpring and autumnal floods, it appears in the higheſt degree probable, that they had grown on the ſpot. Hence we are led to believe, agreeably to traditionary accounts, that the country was well wooded in former times. The Tay has undoubtedly taken various directions, at different periods, through the plain. Delvin, though now and for many ages ſituated on the north, is ſaid to have been on the ſouth ſide of the river *. It ſeems, however, more likely that it was always occaſionally

each miniſter was required to extend his care, was, by that circumſcription, conſtituted a pariſh. This is a poſition ſo generally received in England, that the extent of a manor, and of a pariſh, are regularly received for each other." Boſwell's Life of Johnſon, vol. I. p. 410.

* See Pennant's Tour, quoted below.

ſionally inſulated by the Tay; and this ſuppoſition is favoured by its ſituation, and by its ancient name, *Inch-tuthel*, that is, an "iſland in a flooded ſtream."

Hills and Woods.—The north and weſt parts of the pariſh are hilly, and contain quarries of excellent blue ſlates, which are ſold on the ſpot at L. 1 the thouſand, and are carried to a conſiderable diſtance. The higher hills are covered with heath, mixed with dwarf juniper, the lower with furze and broom. They are generally of a rocky appearance. Some of the latter are clothed with natural woods of oak, aſh, birch and hazel; others have been planted with firs, larches, and other foreſt-trees, of which large plantations have likewiſe been formed in the low part of the pariſh, within the laſt 20 or 30 years; but there is ſtill need of more woods, not only for ſhelter and for ornament, but alſo to ſupply the inhabitants with fuel and timber.

Climate, Diſtempers, &c.—The air is dry and healthy, but ſenſibly different in the N. and S. parts of the pariſh, being temperate on the banks of the Tay and the Iſla, and cold and keen on the hills*. About 50 years ago, the ague was very prevalent in the plain; but ſince the marſhy grounds were drained, it has diſappeared. The diſorders moſtly to be met with, are hyſterical and nervous affections, conſumptions, and worms. The violent nervous ſymptoms with

* Having been favoured with a ſtate of Fahrenheit's thermometer for the laſt 10 years, taken at Delvin, at 11 o'clock at night, I ſubjoin an abſtract of the greateſt and leaſt heights. To this I am enabled to add a ſimilar abſtract of the greateſt and leaſt heights taken at the ſame hour in Queen-Street, Edinburgh, for the ſame years. From theſe abſtracts an idea may be formed of the general temperature of this climate compared with that of the capital. Delvin is in 56° 33′ North Latitude.

ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT of the STATE of the THERMOMETER at DELVIN for 10 Years.

	1783.		1784.		1785.		1786.		1787.		1788.		1789.		1790.		1791.		1792.	
	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.	Great height.	Leaſt height.
January	46	25	41	12	48	18	50	13	50	28	50	25	46	15	46	29	49	29	43	21
February	49	20	40	23	42	18	45	21	48	31	29	29	48	31	49	33	46	29	48	28
March	47	22			48	20	45	19	48	29	47	21	37	24	49	32	48	28	46	21
April	53	37			55	28	52	30	48	34	51	34	48	31	46	30	48	34	51	30
May	54	36	56	41	54	38	55	37	52	40	60	35	52	37	56	40	53	38	51	38
June	56	47	56	41	67	44	61	46	57	35	55	47	56	43	57	42	60	37	56	43
July	64	51	57	47	64	50	59	44	67	47	60	46	56	48	60	48	58	50	62	48
August	66	48	60	43	59	41	59	46	60	49	63	48	60	48	61	46	65	42	60	40
September	58	42	60	40	60	38	53	41	64	40	58	44	58	40	55	40	58	36	57	36
October	57	34	49	30	56	28	55	32	52	33	55	35	55	31	54	31	56	32	53	32
November	49	31	47	24	49	27	45	27	48	21	50	31	46	29	46	22	48	30	56	30
December	47	10	52	19	43	22	45	24	51	18	44	8	48	32	48	23	39	17	52	26

Abſtract of the State of the Thermometer in Queen-ſtreet, Edinburgh, for 10 Years.

January	48	24	48	17	47	24	52	17	51	30	48	26	52	23	49	34	47	31	47	20
February	51	25	47	21	39	20	47	25	48	32	45	28	49	34	51	36	46	26	50	33
March	49	26	42	26	42	21	44	23	48	34	49	22	49	28	52	37	48	30	49	27
April	37	45	32	56	27	57	32		49	34	59	34	51	32	48	35	50	37	52	35
May	55	38	56	42	50	36			57	41	67	42	59	39	52	44	55	37	52	39
June	67	39	58	46	71	43			58	36	61	49	57	46			62	36	58	47
July	67	51	59	48	65	52	61	48	60	48	62	51	59	49	50	46	63	49	61	49
August	64	49	61	46	60	48	61	48	61	48			64	52	62	48	63	50	64	40
September	58	44	59	41	62	37	56	37	58	43			59	44	55	43	55	38	56	39
October	53	35	48	30	58	29	57	34	53	41			57	36	49	40	52	33	53	37
November	51	31	49	35	51	29	46	31	49	28	54	47	44	34	48	31	48	32	56	37

with which the country people are ſometimes ſeized, a ſuppoſed to be owing to their extreme inattention to the drink and clothing, when they are over heated by the ſummer work. Spinning, which is the employment of th young women during the winter months, is juſtly reckone the occaſion of conſumptions among them, by the waſte *ſaliva* requiſite in that laborious exerciſe. Some medic practitioners think, that worms in children are the effec of their living ſo much on potatoes, which they prefer oat-meal. The people in general have weak eyes, from th ſmoke of their houſes, and fine teeth even to old age.

Lakes and Fiſhings.—Through the middle of the Sto mont, runs a chain of ſmall lakes, The lochs of Craiglu of Lows, of Butterſtown, of Cluny, and of Drumeli They are connected by the rivulet or burn of Lunan; whic taking its riſe in the firſt, paſſes through all the reſt, and its mouth, where it falls into the Iſla, forms the eaſter boundary of this pariſh. The three firſt mentioned loch are wholly in the pariſh, and it touches the other two o their ſouth ſides. Excellent pikes, perches, trouts, and eel are found in them. The ſalmon-fiſhing in the Tay is no inconſiderable; and the price is ſo much enhanced by th great demand for the London market, that little is left fo the uſe of the country. The ſalmon caught in the Iſla is in ferior both in ſize and quality to that in the Tay.

Migratory Birds.—Of theſe, the cuckoo, ſwallow, lap wing, ſandy-lark, plover, rail or corncraik, ſeagull, ſea-ma pie, pictarny or kittywake, curlew or whaap, and cloch ret, are ſummer birds. The fieldfare, woodcock, and wild geeſe, are winter birds. The ſwallow appears about th 14th of April; the earlieſt time of the cuckoo's bein heard, is the 25th of April, but uſually not before the 2

or 3d of May. It is heard till the 10th of June, and laſt year, as late as the 3d of July.

Population.—It is a ſubject of regret, that the ſeſſion records of country pariſhes have been generally kept in a manner ſo ſlovenly and negligent, that it is now almoſt impoſſible to form a juſt eſtimate of their population a century ago, or even leſs. There is alſo a peculiar difficulty in making ſuch an eſtimate with regard to this pariſh. Previous to the year 1728, its population was greater than it could be expected to be at any ſubſequent period; becauſe thoſe diſtant parts (already noticed) which are locally ſituated in Cluny and Kinloch, and thoſe which are immediately adjacent to the town of Dunkeld on the N. and W. were then joined reſpectively to theſe pariſhes *quoad ſacra*, in conſequence of a formal recommendation of the Preſbytery; and from that time ceaſed to be under the inſpection of the miniſter of Caputh. With reſpect to the following liſts taken from the pariſh-regiſter, it is to be remarked, 1. That many children in diſtant parts of the pariſh, not being baptized by the miniſter, are neglected to be regiſtered by the parents. 2. That many of the inhabitants bury in other pariſhes, and never pay the tax impoſed by act of Parliament in 1783, which, being unpopular, is not collected in ſome places. No accurate concluſion, therefore, can be drawn from theſe liſts of

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1785,	47	16	14
1786,	41	18	21
1787,	39	30	21
1788,	41	16	18
1789,	39	21	14
1790,	39	21	18
1791,	38	20	13

According

According to Dr Webſter's report, the population at th time was 2048. The firſt enumeration of the inhabitan made by the preſent incumbent, was from June 1784 April 1785, when the number of ſouls was 2023. In t liſt made from November 1791 to October 1792, the nu bers were 2045.

Males above 10,	585	Females above 10,	7
—— under 10,	217	—— under 10,	2
Men ſervants,	183	Maid ſervants,	1
	985		10

Of the Eſtabliſhed Church 1974, Epiſcopalians 27, A tiburgher Seceders 39, Roman Catholics 2, of the Reli Congregation 3. There are,

Preſbyterian clergyman,	1	Boatmen,	
Epiſcopal ditto,	1	Shoemakers,	1
Farmers of L. 50 rent and upwards.	16	Tailors,	1
—— from L. 50 to L. 10 rent, and a great number of ſmaller tenants,	90	Blackſmiths,	1
		Coopers,	
		Millers,	
		Day-labourers,	4
		Alehouſe-keepers,	
Stampmaſter,	1	Diſtillers,	
Weavers,	130	Shopkeepers, or petty re- tailers,	4
Maſons,	24		
Wrights,	30	Flax-dreſſers,	1
Boatwright,	1	Gardeners,	7
Wheelwrights,	2		

There are 456 inhabited houſes, that is, ſeparate dwell ings; of which 411 are inhabited by married, widowers and widows, and 45 by unmarried of either ſex. Hence th

the average number of perſons to each houſe, is ſomewhat more than 4½ *.

Cattle, Grain, &c.—In the pariſh are horſes, black cattle, ſwine, ſheep, foxes, hares, rabbits, badgers, &c. The horſes and black cattle of the *braes*, or hilly part, are ſmall ſized. In the low country, both cattle and horſes (eſpecially the latter,) have of late years been much improved in ſize and goodneſs. Sheep, which formerly abounded throughout the pariſh, were baniſhed from the low grounds when the planting of foreſt-trees became an object of importance to the proprietors. They are of the ſmall Scots breed, (except a few in the neighbourhood of gentlemens ſeats,) and confined to the hilly part of the pariſh. There are 570 horſes, 2061 black cattle, 1800 ſheep, 178 ploughs, 402 carts. The Scots plough is much uſed; but the Engliſh plough is daily gaining ground. There is a map of the pariſh in Stobie's map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan, publiſhed in 1783, but it is not accurate. The number of acres has not been aſcertained. But from a calculation made with great exactneſs, it appears, that beſides ſupplying itſelf with grain, the pariſh ſells annually, at an average, 4000 bolls of barley, which are moſtly carried out

* Few remarkable inſtances of longevity have lately occurred in the pariſh. One man died, during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter, who was above 90; a gentlewoman 88 years of age; and a conſiderable number between 80 and 90. An inſtance worthy of notice, is a man now in his 85th year; who in his youth being croſſed in love, became crazed, and has continued through life, indolent, harmleſs, contented, temperate, and even indifferent about food. For many years, he reſided either in an open ſhed or a hayloft, lying among ſtraw, having only an old blanket around him; apparently without ſleep, yet in perfect health. He has a fine face and figure. His incoherencies are chiefly on the ſubject of war, and the French. He ſtill poſſeſſes a retentive memory, and is famed in the country for his penetration and acuteneſs, his repartees and moral ſayings.

out of it; there being no brewery, and only two ſmall diſtilleries: Whereas about 30 years ago, hardly 1500 bolls were ſold out of the pariſh *.

* *Ancient State of the Pariſh.*—To give a general notion of the former, compared with the preſent ſtate of the pariſh, the following facts relative to the mode of cultivation, &c. 50 or 60 years ago, are ſubjoined; which are derived from the information of ſome intelligent farmers, who ſpeak from their own knowledge. There were for the moſt part 8 tenants in one farm or townſhip, and the whole farm was run rig; that is, one ridge belonged to one, the next to another, the third to a third perſon, &c. The ground was divided into infield and outfield. The infield was conſtantly cropped, either with oats or bear; one ridge being oats, the other bear, alternately. There was no other crop, except a ridge of flax, where the ground was thought proper for it. The outfield was ploughed three years for oats, and then paſtured 5 or 6 years with horſes, black cattle, and ſheep. In order to dung it, they made folds of ſod for the cattle; and what were called flakes or rails of wood, removable at pleaſure, for folding the ſheep. On the field thus teathed, they had their beſt crops for two years. A farmer who rented 60, 80, or 100 acres, was ſometimes under the neceſſity of buying meal for his family in the ſummer ſeaſon: Nor will this appear wonderful, when it is conſidered, that 15 bolls of bear have of late years been produced upon the ſame field, where 50 thrave (1200 ſheaves) formerly grew, which the owner ſaid "he would give for 50 bear bannocks," (barley cakes.) This little anecdote is characteriſtic of the times, though allowance be made for the exaggeration of diſappointment. The rent of land was about a fifth of the preſent rent. The ploughs and carts were uſually made by the farmer himſelf; with little iron about the plough, except the coulter and ſhare; none upon the cart or harrows; no ſhoes upon the horſes; no hempen ropes. In ſhort, every inſtrument of farming was procured at ſmall expenſe, wood being at a very low price. Salt was a ſhilling the buſhel: Little ſoap was uſed: they had no candles, inſtead of which they ſplit the roots of fir trees, which, though brought 50 or 60 miles from the Highlands, were purchaſed for a trifle. Their clothes were of their own manufacturing. The average price of weaving ten yards of ſuch cloth was a ſhilling, which was paid partly in meal and partly in money. The tailor worked for a quantity of meal, ſuppoſe 3 pecks or a firlot a-year, according to the number of the farmer's family. They ploughed with horſes and oxen together; 2 horſes before four or ſix oxen; and ſometimes only with oxen. The time of ſowing and reaping was much the ſame as it is now. After harveſt, they paſtured in common. No marl or lime had at that

Size of Farms, Crops, Rent, &c.—Farms are in general ſmall; many under 40 acres, and from 40 to 60 or 80; ſeldom above 100. There are two tenants, who, renting two or three farms, have in their poſſeſſion 150 or 160 acres. A threſhing mill was erected in 1792 by a ſpirited farmer, on a farm of 120 acres. The principal crops in the pariſh are, oats, barley or bear, peaſe and flax. Wheat has been ſometimes tried by way of experiment; but a crop of barley is more profitable. The culture of potatoes is univerſal. Turnips are cultivated only in the ſouth and eaſt parts of the pariſh, where the ſoil is light and warm. Early oats are ſown in the N. W. part of the pariſh, where the ſoil is cold. A great quantity of clover and rye-graſs is ſown uſually among barley. Oats are ſown from the

time been found in the pariſh. The country was unincloſed, except what was in the immediate neighbourhood of the houſes of great proprietors. In the year 1735, the beſt ploughman was to be had for L. 8 Scots (13 s. 4 d.) a-year, and what was termed a bounty, which conſiſted of ſome articles of clothing, and might be eſtimated at 11 s. 6 d.; in all L. 1, 4 s. 10 d. Sterling. Four years after, his wages roſe to L. 24 Scots, (L 2) and the bounty. Female ſervants received L. 2. Scots, (3 s. 4 d.) and a bounty of a ſimilar kind; the whole not exceeding 6 s. or 7 s. Some years after their wages roſe to 15 s. Men received for harveſt-work L. 6 Scots, (10 s.); Women, L. 5 Scots, (8 s. 4 d.). Poultry was ſold at 40 pennies Scots, (3⅓ d.) Oat-meal, bear and oats, at L. 4 or L. 5 Scots the boll. A horſe that then coſt 100 merks Scots, (L. 5: 11: 1⅓) would now coſt L 25. An ox that coſt L. 20 Scots (L. 1: 13: 4) would now be worth L. 8 or L. 9. Beef and mutton were ſold, not by weight, but by the piece; about 3 s. 4 d. for a leg of beef of 3½ ſtones; and ſo in proportion. No tea nor ſugar was uſed: Little whiſky was drunk, and leſs of other ſpirits: but they had plenty of good ale; there being uſually one malt-barn (perhaps two) on each farm. They caught abundance of ſalmon in the Tay; 150 have been taken in one night, with very imperfect nets, in a ſpace not exceeding 200 yards in length. For many years paſt, they have not caught as many in one ſeaſon, and in the whole pariſh. Neither was ſalmon ſold by weight: One could have been purchaſed for 18 pence which would now coſt 18 ſhillings, at the ſame ſeaſon of the year.

the middle of March to the middle of April; barley from the middle of April to the end of May; potatoes and peaſe from the middle to the end of April; flax from the 23d of April to the 10th of May; turnips from the 1ſt of June to the middle of July, all in drills, except what are late ſown, and intended to ſhoot out in the following ſpring. Yams for horſes have been lately introduced, and planted ſomewhat ſooner than potatoes. Some Engliſh rye is ſown in October. Hay harveſt commences the ſecond week of July; barley and rye harveſt, the firſt week of September; peaſe and oats the ſecond week of that month; and in ſome ſeaſons, they are all more early. But theſe dates, both of ſowing and reaping, refer chiefly to the low country; in the hilly parts of the pariſh, they are in general 10 days later*. The pariſh owes much of its improvement to the late John Mackenzie, Eſq; of Delvin. By directing the attention of the truſtees for manufactures, &c. to this part of the country, by beſtowing well-judged rewards and giving encouragement in various ways, he excited a ſpirit of induſtry and improvement, which has operated with energy and ſucceſs. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 9369 : 3 : 4 Scots. The real rent, (including the rent of houſes and fiſhings, and reckoning the victual-rent at 15 s.

* The names of places are moſtly derived from the Gaelic: As, Inchtuthel, or Innis-tuile, 'The Iſland in a flooded Stream.' Dungarthill, or Dungart, 'The round Hill in the Corn-field,' ('Hill' is a modern addition). Kincairney, or Keancairnrie, 'The Top or Head of the King's Cairn.' Cairnmure, or Cairnmore, 'The great Cairn or Heap.' Aird, 'A Height.' Drummathaty, or Drummartie, 'The gravelly ridge.' Drumbeltie, 'The Ridge of Beltin,' or, 'The Fire of Bel on May-day.' Fongorth, 'The hungry Soil;' or Fonnart, 'The Land of Stones.' Dalbeathy, 'The Birch Haugh,' &c.—Some are Saxon: As, Denhead; Stenton, that is, Stane-town or Stone-town; Haughend, Birkenburn, Meiklour, Littleour, are apparently compounded from the Saxon and Britiſh: Meiklour, (ſituated on the Tay,) 'The great Water;' Littleour, (ſituated on the burn of Lunan), 'The little Water.'

15s. the boll), amounts to L. 4826 Sterling; and if the rent of the diſtant portions above mentioned were taken into the account, it would amount to L. 5651. The beſt arable land is let from L. 1 to L. 1:11:6 the acre; the inferior kinds from 5 s. to 18 s. the acre *.

Stipend, Heritors, School, Poor, &c.—The living amounts to L. 59, (including L. 5:11:1⅓ for communion-elements), 22 bolls of oat-meal, and 10 bolls of barley, Linlithgow meaſure. A proceſs for augmentation of the ſtipend is at preſent depending. The King is patron. The date of the church has been already aſcertained. It is not only inconvenient in the higheſt degree, but too ſmall for the pariſh. The manſe was built in 1754, in a very inſufficient manner; the offices in 1782, and are in good order. The glebe conſiſts of about 8 Scotch acres. Taking the pariſh in the large extent already mentioned, there are 44 heritors or landholders in it, (of whom many are ſmall proprietors or *portioners*;) but 5 of them are not included in the valuation of the pariſh. Only 4 of the greater, and 7 of the ſmaller proprietors, are conſtantly or occaſionally reſident: ſeveral others live in neighbouring pariſhes.—There is one pariſh ſchool. Two at leaſt would be neceſſary to accommodate the inhabitants; one in the ſouth, and one in the north quarter. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L 11:2:2$\frac{8}{12}$. His fees are, for teaching reading, 1 s. the quarter, for reading and writing, 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. He is alſo clerk to the kirk-ſeſſion, with a ſalary of L. 2, beſides perquiſites. The pariſh-ſchool was formerly well frequented, and of great repute

* *Price of Land.*—An eſtate of L. 87 a-year was ſold in 1792 for L. 4410, being more than 50 years purchaſe. The lands of two portioners were lately ſold; one of L. 10 a-year, for L. 412, 10 s.; the other of L. 6 a-year, for L. 300. Property, however, is not often changed.

in the Stormont. The preſent number of ſcholars is about 30.—The number of poor is much diminiſhed, in conſequence of the progreſs of improvement and of induſtry. In the year 1775, the Juſtices of Peace for this county enacted certain regulations for ſuppreſſing vagrants and begging; and appointed liſts of the poor in every pariſh to be made up half yearly, and their maintenance to be provided for by aſſeſſment, if it ſhould be found requiſite. The heritors and kirk-ſeſſion of this pariſh met accordingly, and agreed to adopt the plan pointed out by the Juſtices of Peace: but it was not carried into effect. The liſt of the poor at that time contained 30; of whom 19 received aſſiſtance from the pariſh-funds, and 11 were allowed badges. The average amount of theſe funds was L. 13, 7 s. 8 d. At preſent, there are 12 on the poors liſt; and the average amount of the pariſh-funds, for the laſt 5 years, is L. 27 : 13 : 6. They receive from 2 s. to 4 s. the month; in all L. 1, 12 s.; which makes L. 19, 4 s. a-year. They alſo receive about L. 3, 3 s. *extra* at Martinmas for clothes and ſhoes: total, L. 22, 7 s. But it muſt be remarked, that many of them contribute towards their own ſupport; and they have in general a laudable pride, in not requiring aid from the pariſh funds, as long as they can ſubſiſt without it. The kirk-ſeſſion gives occaſional ſupply to ſuch as are leſs neceſſitous. Their clerk and beadle are likewiſe paid out of theſe funds *.

Prices

* About Chriſtmas 1739 began the ſevereſt froſt that had been known ſince the year 1715. For ſix weeks, from the 1ſt of January 1740, the river Tay was frozen over; and loaded carts paſſed and repaſſed on the ice. The crop of that year, not being fully ripened, was very deficient; and oat-meal roſe, in 1741, to the enormous price of L. 12 Scots (L. 1 Sterling) the boll. At that time, the moſt indigent poor of the pariſh received 6 s. Scots, (6 d. Sterling) a-week; and thoſe who were able to beg, 2 s. Scots, (2 d. Sterling.) The next ſeaſon was as mild as the former

Prices and Wages.—The price of all kinds of proviſions has riſen conſiderably within theſe few years; that of poultry, in particular, is almoſt double what it was in 1783. The average price of beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, through the year, is 3½ d. the Dutch pound. Poultry, 10 d. or 1 s.; a chicken, 3 d.; a dozen of eggs, 3 d.; butter, 6 d. the Engliſh pound; cheeſe from 4 s. to 6 s. the ſtone, of 16 pounds, the pound containing 22 ounces; potatoes, 6 d. the peck, of 2 ſtones Dutch or meal weight. The prices of grain are for the moſt part lower than in the Haddington market. As the farmers uſually ſell on credit, and deliver in December, January, &c. what is not to be paid till midſummer following, they get a higher price than they would otherwiſe receive. Barley, of crop 1791, was from 15 s. to 18 s. the boll; oats from 12 s. to 15 s.; ſeed oats from 16 s. to 17 s.; peaſe from 13 s. to 15 s.; oatmeal from 15 s. 4 d. to 16 s. The prices are in general higher for crop 1792.—Servants, both male and female, are commonly hired for the whole year. The beſt man ſervant for huſbandry receives L. 10 or L. 12; an ordinary one from L. 6 to L. 8. They either have their victuals in the farmer's houſe, or in lieu of victuals, 6 bolls and a half of oat-meal, and milk from his dairy. Female ſervants receive from L. 3 to L. 4. A man, for harveſt work, gets from L. 1 to L. 1, 18 s.; a woman from 16 s. to L. 1; a

mer had been ſevere. The crop was uncommonly fertile, and generally got in about the middle of September N. S. Before Martinmas 1741, the price of meal fell to L. 6 Scots the boll. In conſequence of the very late and unproductive crop of 1782, the price of oat-meal again roſe, in the ſummer of 1783, to L. 1 the boll. In Auguſt that year the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion directed L. 12 to be taken from the pariſh-funds, and diſtributed in the courſe of four weeks; and ſoon after, 10 bolls 1 firlot and 1 peck of the meal, which was ſent to Scotland by order of Government, were received and diſtributed in like manner. By theſe means, a temporary relief was afforded to many of the induſtrious poor.

a day-labourer, in ſummer, 1 s. a-day, or 1 s. and his victuals, in winter, 10 d.; a wright from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; a maſon, 1 s. 10 d.; a tailor, 8 d. and his victuals. Weavers earn from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. a-day: when trade is briſk, an active workman will gain much more; for as he uſually buys the yarn which he manufactures, his profits from the ſale of his cloth are, in this caſe, very great. It is to be obſerved, however, that they are ſeldom more than 9 months engaged in weaving; that is, from Martinmas to the end of Auguſt, or beginning of September, when the lint-harveſt commences. The ſcarcity, and the conſequent high wages of men ſervants, are chiefly owing to the numbers now employed in weaving, tempted by the profits made in this branch of manufacture *.

Fuel.—

* STATE of Earnings and Expenſes of Three Families of Induſtrious Poor.

No. I.

A day-labourer, his wife, and 4 ſmall children, the eldeſt under 7 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

Earnings a-week.

The man earns, at a medium, — —	L.	0	5 9
The woman (aſſiſted by the eldeſt child occaſionally keeping the infant) earns by ſpinning, —		0	2 0
Total,		0	7 9
Amount in the year,	L.	20	3 0

Expenſes a-week.

Four pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal, —	L.	0	4 6
Milk, ſalt, onions, and potatoes, — —		0	1 1
Soap, ſtarch, blue, and oil, — —		0	0 3
Butter, cheeſe, bacon, or other meat, — —		0	0 6
Thread and worſted, — — —		0	0 1
Total,		0	6 5
Amount in the year,	L.	16	13 8
Exceſs of earnings,	L.	3	9 4

Annual

Fuel.—Peat and turf, (chiefly brought from a diſtance), broom and furze, were formerly the only fuel uſed in this diſtrict. To theſe, coal is now added, which they fetch from Perth, 10 or 11 Engliſh miles from the ſouthmoſt part of the pariſh. Although the boll of coal, of 40 ſtones Dutch weight, ſeldom coſts leſs than 3 s. at Perth, and has lately been greatly dearer, partly in conſequence of the increaſed demand for it, they juſtly reckon it cheaper, as it is

Annual Expenſes.

The man's wear of a ſuit, 4 s.; of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s.; of a bonnet and handkerchief, 1 s. 1 d.	L. 0	9	1
Of two ſhirts, 8 s.; of a pair of ſhoes, and two pair of ſtockings, 9 s. — — —	0	17	0
The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 4 s.; of a ſhift, 3 s. 3 d. — — —	0	7	3
Of a pair of ſhoes, 4 s. and a pair of ſtockings, 1 s. 6 d.	0	5	6
Of an apron, 1 s. 6 d.; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 3 s.	0	4	6
The childrens wear, — —	0	15	0
Lying in, loſs of time by ſickneſs and bad weather, and burials, one year with another, — —	0	11	0
Total,	L. 3	9	4

Rent of a houſe and garden, L. 1. The garden, which the man dreſſes in the mornings and evenings, affords the family cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent. Fuel coſts 10 s.; but after dunging the garden, there is a remainder of aſhes, which dungs as much ground (given by the farmer) as produces potatoes worth 10 s.

No. II.

A day-labourer, his wife, and 5 children, the eldeſt 9 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

They have an acre of land, graſs for a cow, and a houſe and garden; rent, at an average, L. 2, 10 s. The eldeſt boy or girl earns for itſelf, by keeping cattle. The acre of land, &c. enables this family to gain L. 1 more a-year than No. I. They have, therefore, L. 4 : 9 : 4 for defraying annual expenſes.

No. III.

is more eaſily procured, than any other kind of fuel. In ſummer, the farmers ſometimes go 30 or 40 miles to the coal

No. III.

A weaver, his wife, and 3 ſmall children, the eldeſt under 5 years of age, the youngeſt an infant.

Earnings a-week.

The earnings of the man and woman cannot be ſeparated, as they are both employed in manufacturing the ſame piece of cloth.

Their earnings at a medium,	— —	L. 0	9 0
Amount in the year,		23	8 0

Expenſes a-week.

Three pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal,	—	L. 0	3 8
Milk, ſalt, onions, and potatoes,	—	0	1 0
Butter, cheeſe, bacon, or other meat,	— —	0	0 8
Soap, ſtarch, blue, and oil,	— —	0	0 6
Thread, thrum, and worſted,	— —	0	0 1
		L. 0	5 11
Amount in the year,		15	7 8
Exceſs of earnings,		L. 8	0 4

Annual Expenſes.

The man's wear of a ſuit, 4 s. 6 d.; of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s.; of a hat and handkerchief, 2 s.	—	L. 0	10 6
Of 2 ſhirts, 8 s.; of a pair of ſhoes and 2 pair of ſtockings, 9 s.		0	17 0
The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 5 s.; of 2 ſhifts, 6 s. 6 d.; of a pair of ſhoes, 4 s.; of 2 aprons, 3 s.		0	18 6
Of a pair of ſtockings, 1 s. 6 d.; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 7 s.	— —	0	8 6
The childrens wear,	— —	1	2 0
Fuel,	— —	0	12 0
Lying in, ſickneſs and loſs of time thereby, and burials, one year with another,	— —	1	5 0
Total,		L. 5	13 6
Balance,		L. 2	6 10

Rent of a houſe and garden, L. 1. The garden, dreſſed by the man in the mornings and evenings, affords them cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent.

coal pits in Fife, where it is purchaſed at a comparatively low price.

Villages.—There are five townſhips or villages, containing from 20 to 38 families; and 6, containing from 7 to 17 families. Meiklour, the largeſt of them, has 3 fairs for cattle in the year. At Spittalfield a ſtamp-office was eſtabliſhed in 1775.

Linen Manufacture.—The following quantities of linen have been annually ſtamped here.

	Yards.	*Value.*
From Nov. 1. 1775 to Nov. 1. 1776,	79,264	L. 3265 15 7¼
——— 1777,	88,139	3655 9 4
——— 1778,	84,821	3039 7 0¾
——— 1779,	97,975	3571 14 8¼
——— 1780,	103,650	4077 10 0
——— 1781,	84,312	3773 19 11½
——— 1782,	99,461	4335 7 6
——— 1783,	114,161	4635 17 10¾
——— 1784,	107,326	4442 0 0¼
——— 1785,	107,653	4831 0 1¾
——— 1786,	103,183	4310 10 10¾
——— 1787,	105,129	4475 10 3¼
——— 1788,	98,914	4079 17 6¼
——— 1789,	96,794	3819 7 8
——— 1790,	102,974	4214 2 10½
——— 1791,	102,731	4418 0 1¼
——— 1792,	104,451	4610 1 8
Total in 17 years,	1,680,938	L. 69,555 13 2¾

The greateſt part of this cloth is ſtamped unbleached. It conſiſts of white and brown linen; the latter known by the

the name of *Scrimns* and *Sileſias*. Formerly, not above one third of what was ſtamped was manufactured in the pariſh; but during the two laſt years, the pariſh manufactured about one half of the quantity ſtamped. Beſides the above quantities, and without reckoning 12,000 yards and upwards, annually made for houſehold uſe, there are about 20,000 yards manufactured in the pariſh, which are ſtamped at Blairgowrie or Dunkeld.

Antiquities.—About a mile and a half north-weſt from the church, in a very elevated ſituation, there is a ſmall Druidical circle. Beſide it are two large ſtones, deeply ſunk in the ground; the top of the loweſt is artificially formed into an inclined plane, facing the ſouth, and contains a number of ſmall cavities; which may have been uſed by the Druids in the performance of religious rites. Near the church, there are the remains of a *cairn*, where probably a croſs had been erected during the prevalence of Popiſh ſuperſtition; the place ſtill retaining the name of *Croſs-cairn*. Cairnmure is the largeſt cairn in this country, being 456 feet in circumference, and 18 feet high. It has been lately ſurrounded with a row of trees and a ſtone wall. Above half a mile ſouth-weſt from this, ſtands another, 357 feet in circumference, and 14 feet high. In a line with theſe two, and at the ſame diſtance, there is a third, of a ſmaller ſize. The top of the craig at Stenton, a mile weſt from the church, bears evident marks of having been a fortified ſpot. It is called *Kemp's Hold*, or the *Soldier's Faſtneſs*. Some fragments of weapons were dug up about 16 years ago, when it was planted with trees. It has a very picturesque appearance. The antiquities of Inchtuthel have been deſcribed by the ingenious Mr Pennant *. It is a flat of

* Tour in Scotland 1772, Part II. p. 67—71 where there is any engraving of this tabulated eminence, ſufficiently exact, except in the view given

of 160 Scotch acres, regularly ſteep on every ſide, and in every part of equal height, that is, about 60 feet above the great plain of the Stormont, on which it ſtands. Here the Picts had a town, which muſt have been a place of great ſtrength, and of which the veſtiges may be diſcerned at the ſouth-weſt corner of this ſingular elevation. Boetius calls it *Tuline* or *Tulina*, and ſays, that it was populous and well fortified; but deſerted and burnt by the Picts, on the approach of the Romans under Agricola: he adds, (as tranſlated by Holinſhed,) "the Scottiſhmen in our time call the place Inchtuthill *." The Romans alſo availed themſelves of this ſituation. Their camp ſtood on the north-eaſt border, and commanded an extenſive view of the plain. It is 500 yards ſquare; the walls, to a conſiderable height, were ſtrongly built, nine feet and a half thick, with ſtones brought from a quarry 2 miles diſtant; the ſtones have been gradually removed, and the walls are now almoſt levelled by the plough. In the courſe of ploughing, fragments of weapons, and ſome entire utenſils, were formerly found. Here, Mr Pennant fixes the *Ærrea* of the Romans; with much greater probability than Dr Stukeley †, who ſuppoſes it to have been Perth; though in his map, he places it north-eaſt of the Tay, and on the very ſpot where the preſent Delvin ſtands. There are two *tumuli* or *barrows*, and a redoubt, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the camp. A few years ago, the largeſt of theſe barrows was opened, and conſiſted of a rich black mold, poſſibly compoſed of

given of its ſides, which are repreſented too ſteep. The eaſt and weſt ſides are covered with thriving foreſt-trees, planted by the late Mr Mackenzie.

* Boet. Hiſt. Scotiæ, lib. iv. p. 64. Holinſhed's Hiſtorie of Scotlande, p. 52, 53

† In his account of Richard of Cirenceſter, quoted by Pennant.

the aſhes of the funeral pyres that had been conſumed there. It is now diſtinguiſhed by a clump of trees. Inchtuthel is likewiſe believed to have been part of the land granted by Kenneth III. (who began his reign in 977,) to Hay for his bravery in the battle of Luncarty; and his deſcendents* poſſeſſed it till the beginning of the 17th century. There appears to have been a Roman ſtation 3 miles to the eaſt of this, in the moor of Meiklour, towards the extremity of the pariſh. The line of the Roman military road leading thither, can be ſtill traced through the pariſhes of Scone, St Martin's, and Cargill: and this road ſeems unqueſtionably to be the continuation of that which paſſed through Strathern, and croſſed the Tay at Rome, a little to the weſtward of Scone, where probably there was a bridge of wood over the river †. Where the Roman road touches on the Iſla, a bridge is alſo ſuppoſed to have ſtood, of which the neceſſity is evident, for the purpoſe of opening a communication from the ſouth with the ſtation near Meiklour, and by conſequence with the champaign country, both eaſt and weſt, as far as the Grampian Mountains. Here the Romans raiſed a wall of earth, about 24 feet thick, (for it is difficult to aſcertain the exact meaſurement,) defended by a ditch on each ſide, 60 feet diſtant from the wall. This wall, which is now named the *Cleaving Dike*, ſtretched above two miles and a half, from the ancient courſe of the Tay to the Iſla; which, by their commodious junction two miles below, completely ſecured the ſtation. The ſpace incloſed is in the form of a *delta*. In this area, there are ſeveral exploratory mounts; one, apparently artificial, (now called the *Blackhill*,

* William 5th Earl of Errol (who ſucceeded in 1506) was in his father's lifetime, deſigned William of Caputh, and Maſter of Errol. Douglas's peerage.

† Appendix to Pennant's Tour, No. 15. p. 451.

Blackhill, and planted with firs,) ſtands near the head of the ſuppoſed bridge, and from the remains of a fortification on the top, ſeems to have been deſigned to cover the landing-place.—The font or veſſel uſed in adminiſtering baptiſm in the church, is of a ſingular conſtruction. It is made of braſs, 16¼ inches in diameter. On the interior ſurface are impreſſed two circular lines of words; the outer circle contains, in Roman characters, DI. DAL. WVNDI *, five times repeated; the inner circle conſiſts of unknown characters, four times repeated, which cannot be repreſented without an engraving. An exact tranſcript of the whole was made by me ſeveral years ago, and preſented to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland.

General Character and Condition of the People.—The people here have an indifference, and even diſlike, both to a ſeafaring and a military life. They prefer the occupations in huſbandry or manufacture, to which they are inured from their infancy. They are rather fond of large weddings and funerals, and often incur unneceſſary expenſe on ſuch occaſions. Of late, they have become much more ſtudious of dreſs than they were, and have changed for the better their mode of living in many articles of domeſtic economy. They are now more attentive to cleanlineſs than formerly; their cottages are more ſubſtantially and commodiouſly built; and their condition is daily improving. On the whole, they are ſober, peaceable and induſtrious. They are in general humane to one another, and ſhow great kindneſs and ſympathy to their diſtreſſed neighbours. During the laſt 30 years, one inſtance of ſuicide has happened; and one perſon has been baniſhed. I have not heard of any perſon belonging to the pariſh having ſuffered capital puniſhment.

Advantages

* I ſuppoſe the letter immediately before D to be N. If ſo, it is this letter inverted.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—A judicious obſerver has remarked, that the light grounds in the Stormont poſſeſs this advantage over richer and ſtronger ſoils, that though the crops are never uncommonly weighty, yet they are moderatly good, in a greater variety of ſeaſons, than in any place where his obſervation has eached. A new road now making to Perth by Stanley, will be of conſiderable utility to the pariſh. And conſequences ſtill more beneficial muſt ariſe from the accompliſhment of a plan now in agitation, for building a bridge over the Iſla, where it empties itſelf into the Tay, and for making a turnpike road from that bridge to Perth *. The road between Dunkeld and Cupar in Angus paſſes through the middle of the pariſh; but, though it is a great thoroughfare, it has never been made in a ſufficient manner. The ſtatute-labour, being formerly exacted in kind, was ill adapted either to the conſtruction or preſervation of good roads. As it is now commuted, it may be reaſonably expected to produce an advantageous change in the ſtate of the roads in the county. A marl-pit has been lately drained. There is alſo ſome lime in the pariſh, but the want of coal renders it uſeleſs. Indeed the principal diſadvantage under which the inhabitants labour, is their diſtance from coal, and from lime, for the purpoſes of agriculture. It is to be regretted, that ſome well directed attempts have not been made, to diſcover whether there is coal in this diſtrict. A matter of ſuch importance merits a trial. Much of the pariſh is ſtill uninclоſed. The farmers are fully ſenſible, that incloſures would be

* It is at once amuſing and inſtructive to reflect, that near the ſpot where the intrepid Agricola conſtructed a wooden bridge for tranſporting the troops who were to ſubdue the valour and ravage the fields of the brave Caledonians, the enlightened deſcendents of thoſe uncivilized but generous barbarians, are about to erect a more ſolid ſtructure, for the nobler purpoſe of advancing the cultivation and improvement of their country.

be of eſſential benefit to them; and from the increaſing activity and ſpirit of the proprietors, there is every reaſon to believe, that in the courſe of not many years, the moſt valuable part of it will be properly divided and incloſed. Thirlage ſtill continues in the pariſh, and is felt by the farmers as a grievance and a bar to improvement. For the ſake of an induſtrious body of men, it is much to be wiſhed, that this odious remainder of feudal tyranny were entirely aboliſhed.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH of LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT FARQUHARSON.

Name, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Logie was annexed to the pariſh of Coldſtone in 1618. The name of the pariſh of Logie is expreſſive of its local ſituation. It is a corruption of the word *Lag*, which in the Gaelic language, ſignifies a "hol- "low or low ſituation." There is no circumſtance or tradition for the origin of Coldſtone. Logie-Coldſtone pariſh is 38 miles diſtant from Aberdeen. It lies in the upper part of the country called Cromar, a corruption of the word *Cruievar*, which in the Gaelic ſignifies "the bught of Mar." It is at equal diſtances berween the rivers Dee and Don. The country is ſurrounded by a large ridge of hills, and is in the form of a bught or fold for holding cattle. The diſtrict is about 3½ miles from E. to W. and about 6 from S. to N. The ſoil is various. The interior

part of the country is interſperſed with a number of ſmall hills, and large barren moors; a great many of which retain the marks of cultivation, by the remains of furrows and fences; but the ground is now ſo reduced by that barbarous practice of caſting muck-feal and turf, (that is, the ſurface), that it produces nothing in general, but a ſhort worthleſs kind of heath. Near the manſe there is a ſmall plantation of fir wood; to the S. and E. of the church, there are 5 of the ſame kind. Some farms on the E. and W. ſide of the manſe, called the Eaſter and Weſtern Baronies, and lands of Waterairn, are a fine rich deep loam; and though very capable of improvement, are all in a ſtate of nature, except the farms of Kinaldie, Coldſtone, and part of that of Loanhead. The firſt is all incloſed, and ſome of the fields ſtraighted and dreſſed; the ſecond was incloſed by the heritor about 14 years ago, and lies in natural graſs, on which he paſtures his own cattle in ſummer and harveſt; a part of the third, which lies near the manſe, is incloſed and improved. On the E. and W. ſide of the church, the ground is light and ſandy, a great part of it of a very poor quality; in advancing farther from the church, towards the S. E. extremity, the ſoil is of a fine rich loam. That part of the pariſh called Deſkrie Side, which lies on the north ſide of the hills, is of a cold wet moſſy nature, and very ſubject to froſt and mildews.

Climate, Rivulets, Springs, &c.—The air is accounted ſalubrious. The froſt in winter is often very intenſe, though the country is not near ſo ſtormy as the neighbouring pariſhes to the N. and W. of it, ſuch as Towie, Glenbucket, and Strathdon. There are 3 rivulets in the diſtrict, which fall into the Dee in the pariſh of Aboyne. They are ſo ſmall in ſummer, that they require gathered dams to drive the meal-mills, of which there are 5 in the interior part of this diſtrict, and 1 on Deſkrie Side, driven by a burn, the one ſide of which, for 2 miles, belongs to this pariſh. It

falls

falls into the Don about a mile below the church of Strathdon. They all abound with fine trout. There is a loch on the ſouth ſide of this diſtrict, called Lochdaven. It is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference; it abounds with pike, ſome of them of a large ſize. A good many of them are taken with bait in ſummer. There is a mineral ſpring in the pariſh, a little to the S. of the church, called Poldow, which in the Gaelic ſignifies "a black pool;" the water of which, ſome years ago, was much and ſucceſsfully uſed for ſcorbutic and graveliſh diſorders. It is now much deſerted, ſince the Wells of Pananich (which are 4 miles diſtant) were diſcovered. Great crowds of the country people ſtill reſort to Poldow, and drink of the water for all diſorders.

Antiquities, Game, &c.—The principal remains of antiquity in this pariſh are 3 large cairns, 1 of which, a little to the N. of the manſe, is of an uncommon ſize. They are ſuppoſed to mark out the places where the bodies of ſome eminent men were interred. There are likewiſe Druidical fanes in different parts of the pariſh.—Few pariſhes in Scotland abound more with a greater variety of game, ſuch as hares, ſnipe, moor-fowl, partridges, woodcock, a few blackcock, tarmagans, and white hares; the two latter are always to be found on the hill of Morven, which, in the Gaelic, ſignifies "a large hill." It is one of the higheſt hills in Scotland; it bounds a part of the pariſh on the W. There are likewiſe great numbers of wild ducks and geeſe, which, in late ſeaſons, deſtroy a great part of the crop which grows on the low grounds.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls then was 1243. The ſtate of the pariſh, with reſpect to population, cannot be traced far back. The writer

writer of this was ſettled here in 1779; the number of inhabitants ſince that time is conſiderably decreaſed. At that period, all the farms were occupied by tenants and ſubtenants; but at preſent there are about 20 families quite extirpated, and their poſſeſſions in natural graſs. In 1780, there were 1300 ſouls in the pariſh, at preſent (1793) there are 1182. The annual average of births ſince 1780 is 23; of marriages, 10. The people follow, in general, the occupation of huſbandry. There are 2 ſmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 ſhoemakers, and 4 ſhopkeepers, who ſell ſmall articles for the good of the country. The chief manufacture, till about 1789, was that of knitting ſtockings by the women, the wool brought by manufacturers from Aberdeen. For 3 years paſt, ſpinning on the two-handed wheel is much introduced, and found more profitable. The lint is given out to ſpin, juſt in the ſame way as the wool, by manufacturers from Aberdeen, Brechin, and as far ſouth as Dundee. The whole inhabitants are members of the Eſtabliſhed Church, and ſpeak all that dialect of Engliſh, common in the north of Scotland.

Agriculture.—Oats and common bear are the principal productions of the pariſh; ſome peaſe and rye are alſo raiſed; but the quantity of theſe kinds of grain is but ſmall, when compared with oats and bear. Potatoes are of late cultivated by every family, whether of farmers or labourers, for their own ſubſiſtence: a few turnips are ſown, ſome in drills and ſome in broadcaſt; but for want of incloſures, as winter herding is not introduced, they muſt be pulled before they come to much perfection. The old Scots plough is almoſt univerſally uſed. Some of the moſt ſubſtantial tenants put 12 oxen in the plough, others 10, others 8, the poorer ſort 2 horſes and 2 cows, ſome of them 1 horſe, 2 cows, and 2 ſmall oxen. Clover and rye-graſs have been cultivated on

the farms of Kinaldy, Blelachy, and Lonhead, with great ſucceſs; but no where elſe, except in gardens, for want of incloſures. Many of the farmers begin to raiſe flax; and as there are now 2 lint-mills erected in 2 of the neighbouring pariſhes, Towie and Coul, it is thought it will turn out a very profitable crop. There are a good many ſheep reared in the pariſh, the greater part of them of the black faced kind; they ſell from L. 7 to L. 13 the ſcore. Black cattle are very much degenerated for want of graſs, the farmers ſend them all, except a few milk-cows, to paſture in glens every year about Whitſunday for 3 months; and ſince the ſheep became numerous, they generally return as poor as when they went away. In 1780 there were 5 or 6 carts in this pariſh; now, in 1793, there are about 30. There are at preſent 4 heritors in the pariſh, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Strathaven, James Farquharſon of Invercauld, and Charles Gordon of Blelack; the latter is the only reſiding heritor. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 2783 Scots. Real rent L. 782, 10 s. 344 bolls 2 firlots meal, 181 bolls 1 firlot bear. The rents of the principal eſtates are demanded when due; with certification, that if the laſt farthing is not paid, the tenants (very few of them having tacks) muſt remove at the firſt term of Whitſunday. To avoid this evil, numbers of them ſell meal and bear for ready money, which they have not to deliver, and at that inſtant buy the ſame back from the one they ſold it to at 5 s. and 3 s. 6 d. the boll of additional price, payable 9 months after. Such as have the victual to deliver, are obliged to threſh out their crop before they have uſe for the ſtraw; by which means, they loſe a great deal of it, carrying it out of their barns and building it up in their yards, and it becomes dry and inſipid for their cattle. By this uncommon kind of traffic, numbers are reduced to very low circumſtances. All the conſolation they have, is, the one part of them is taught by civil,

civil, the other by moral law, that "whom the Lord loves he chaſtiſes." Lord Strathaven, who got his father Lord Aboyn's property in this county made over to him 2 or 3 years ago, has altered the terms of payment of rents from Martinmas till the 8th or middle of February; and from Whitſunday till the middle of Auguſt; by which his tenants have an opportunity of making the beſt of their victual and cattle, and now pay their rents with much greater eaſe and advantage than they did formerly. If this plan were adopted by heritors in general in this country, it would be of the greateſt conſequence to their tenants in general, who depend chiefly on the produce of their crops for the greater part of their rents. Improvements in agriculture will never take place in this pariſh, until leaſes are granted and encouragement given for houſes and incloſing; till that happen, the poor farmer will be obliged to adopt the old mode of cultivation, whether right or wrong, though the climate and ſoil in general are ſuch as would produce good crops of any kind of grain uſed in the north of Scotland. At preſent the farm-houſes are worth very little, and the mode of living very mean; dwelling-houſes, when valued on the removal of a tenant, are appreciated from 16 s. to L. 1, 5 s. Subtenants from 5 s. to 10 s. *

Stipend,

* Servants wages ſince 1784 are raiſed near double of what they were before that time. The average rate at which men ſervants are hired for the year by the farmer is from L. 5, 15 s. to L. 7, 10 s. and maintained in the family; women ſervants uſually get from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. and their maintenance. There are no alehouſes in the pariſh; the inhabitants in general are very ſober: but numbers of them are obliged by neceſſity to attend a weekly market at Tarland, ſome time before every term, to ſell victual in the way already mentioned to pay their rents; by which means, they throw away a great part of their time and their ſubject. At this market no fewer than 4 meſſengers, 3 of whom are notary-publics, attend regularly, and have made themſelves rich on the ruins of the poor; one of them has bought 2 eſtates.

Stipend, School, Poor.—Logie-Coldſtone is a vice-patronage; the Crown and Invercauld preſent alternately. The annual ſtipend modified in 1793 is L. 45 : 2 : 1, and 111 bolls of victual, 32 of which are bear, and 2 glebes. The church was rebuilt in 1780, the manſe and kitchen in 1783; the office-houſes are in a ruinous ſtate.—There is only one ſchool. The ſalary is 100 merks; the number of ſcholars in winter is from 50 to 80, owing to the ſchool being contiguous to a great part of the pariſh of Tullich, which lies within Cromar, and that of Migvie, where there is no ſchool but that of Coldſtone adjacent to either. The ſchool is kept in the old manſe where the ſchoolmaſter lives; in ſummer the number of ſcholars ſeldom exceeds 10 or 12.—The number of poor on the pariſh-roll is uſually from 28 to 35. The only fund for their ſupport, which amounted to L. 35 Sterling, was in the hands of a gentleman, who failed in circumſtances and is ſince dead. All that was recovered of the money was L. 6; ſo that the poor have nothing now but that and the weekly collections to depend upon. Invercauld has been in the regular practice of ſending money to divide among them annually ſince the 1783; the ſum is uſually L. 11 Sterling.

NOTE.

Letter from Mr Farquharſon to Sir John Sinclair.

"There is a very uncommon and particular circumſtance in my caſe, which I ſhall mention to you, (knowing you to be a friend to mankind). I have for a long time been diſtreſſed with a diſorder in my ſtomach; about 5 years ago, I was adviſed to take (when much pained) 25 drops of laudanum once a-day, and to increaſe the quantity gradually. My diſtreſs was ſuch, that it made me attend regularly to the preſcription, as it gave me a momentary relief, ſo that at the end of 4 years I came on to 12 and often 14 tea-ſpoonfuls the day; the effects of which, along with my complaint, reduced me to mere ſkin and bone, and made me as yellow as an orange. I conſulted Dr Cullen when I began to take the laudanum, who did not diſapprove of it; but on finding it breaking in faſt on my conſtitution, (which was originally good), I applied to Dr Monro

who

who gave me for anſwer, " that laudanum was a certain, though ſlow poiſon." This determined me, though in a very reduced ſtate, to diminiſh the quantity 10 tea-ſpoonfuls a-day. The ſudden tranſition bore very hard upon me, to ſuch a degree, that it was the belief of every one who ſaw me, that I could not live many days. Dr Thomas Moriſon in London, (who was my early acquaintance), came to this country in Auguſt laſt, and adviſed me (if poſſible) to abandon the laudanum, but to do it gradually; he ſent me ſome doſes of the ſhavings of ſteel to take three times a-day, which I continued to do with ſuch ſucceſs, that I can now with pleaſure ſay that I have not taſted laudanum for 4 months paſt, and am become ſtout and fat."

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF GRAITNEY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN MORGAN.

Name, Extent, Surface.

NO authentic information can be obtained reſpecting the etymology of the name of this pariſh. The ſpelling varies much, which increaſes the difficulty. The moſt probable conjecture is, that it was originally called *Greatknow*, from a ſmall hill lying at the diſtance of about a quarter of a mile from the church. The form of it is that of an oblong ſquare, extending along the coaſt of the Solway Frith, nearly 6 miles in length, and about 3 in breadth at an average. It is a level diſtrict, diverſified with a few riſing grounds of ſmall extent. The higheſt eminence is Graitney-hill, from which the pariſh is ſuppoſed to derive its name, lying at the diſtance of about a quarter of a mile from the church. It riſes about 250 feet above water

ter mark, and commands a pleaſant and extenſive proſpect of the coaſt of Cumberland, Solway Frith, Annandale, Liddieſdale, and of part of Northumberland.

Springs, Rivers, Solway Frith, &c.—There are ſome mineral ſprings; but as very little attention hath hitherto been paid to them, their virtues are ſcarcely known, and they are rendered leſs valuable by being often waſhed over by the tides. The Eden, Eſk, and Sark, uniting form the head of Solway Frith, and the ſouthern boundary of this pariſh. The Frith here may be 4 or 5 miles broad, and is navigable to Sarkfoot for veſſels of 120 tons burden. There are ſeveral harbours or landing places in the pariſh, ſuch as Sarkfoot, Hiedkirkpoint, Brewhouſes, &c. but on any part of the coaſt, which is a flat and ſandy ſhore, veſſels may lie in ſafety at all times. The Sark, and the Kirtle another ſmall river, are the only ſtreams in the pariſh. The tides flow regularly from W. to E. with great rapidity, for the ſpace of 3 hours, and are nearly full at the moon's ſouthing. The ſpring-tides riſe about 20 feet above low water mark, and there are evident appearances of their having riſen much higher at ſome former period. In the little rivers Sark and Kirtle are trout, eels, herlings, pike, &c. but not in ſuch quantities as to be objects of much attention to the inhabitants. The fiſhing, however, in the Solway Frith is of more importance. It produces ſalmon in pretty large quantities, ſome ſturgeon, cod, flounders, and rarely porpoiſes. But as the different methods employed in taking the ſeveral kinds of fiſh, the markets to which they are ſent, and the prices at which they are ſold, are fully and accurately detailed in the return from the adjoining pariſh of Dornoch, it is unneceſſary to repeat them here.

Climate,

Climate, Soil, &c.—The climate is temperate and the air healthful. No local diſtempers are prevalent. There are ſeveral inſtances indeed of rheumatic and nervous diſorders, particularly among the loweſt claſs of the inhabitants, owing to their living in cold and damp houſes, to their enjoying but a ſcanty ſhare of the comforts of life, and in ſome caſes perhaps to the indiſcreet uſe of tea and ſpiritous liquors. There have been ſome inſtances of longevity. It appears from a grave-ſtone in the church-yard here, that of 2 brothers, who died a century ago, the one was 111, and the other 110. In the year 1791, a woman died at the age of 103, but her name could not be found in the pariſh-record. There is now living one woman upwards of an 100, two between 90 and 100, and ſeveral perſons between 80 and 90, which are ſtriking proofs of the ſalubrity of this part of the country.—The ſoil is various. Except ſome tracts of moſs and boggy grounds, which are incapable of improvement, it is in general dry and ſandy, mixed with ſtones. In ſome parts, and particularly on the ſea-ſide, it is a fine rich loam; in others, of a wet and clayiſh nature. In almoſt every part, however, the ſoil is fertile, and, when properly cultivated, yields abundant returns*.

Population.—According to the returns made to Dr Webſter, the number of ſouls was then 1051. It is believed that the population of this pariſh has been gradually increaſing for many years. There are now 1810 perſons, of whom are,

Under 10 years of age, 490 Between 10 and 20, 399

Between

* Wheat is ſown in October and November; oats from the middle of March to the end of April; barley in the latter end of April and in May; turnip from the middle of June to the middle of July. Reaping begins about the middle of Auguſt, and continues till the latter end of October. The ſeaſons, however, are ſometimes a little earlier, ſometimes later.

Between 20 and 50,	620
Between 50 and 70,	225
Between 70 and 100,	75
Above 100, -	1
Of theſe, there are,	
Males, -	805
Females, -	1005
Married of both ſexes,	430
Bachelors above 50,	37
Unmarried women above 45, -	88
Widowers, -	23
Widows, -	53
Families, - -	323
Surgeons, - -	2
Schoolmaſters, -	4
Shopkeepers, -	15
Principal innkeeper,	1
Inferior innkeepers,	3
Tippling houſes, -	15
Blackſmiths, -	7
Joiners, - -	9
Weavers, - -	52
Shoemakers, -	8
Tailors, - -	9
Butchers, -	2
Millers, - -	2
Bakers, - -	3
Gardeners, - -	3
Midwife, - -	1
Tallow-chandler, -	1
Travelling pedlar,	1
Men who gain a livelihood partly by fiſhing, and partly by ſome other employment,	75
Land-ſurveyor, -	1
Apprentices, -	31
Chaiſe-drivers, -	2
Male labouring ſervants,	50
Female ditto, -	52
Female domeſtic ſervants, - -	12
Farmers above L. 50 a-year, - -	7
Do. between L. 50 and L. 15 a-year, -	46
Do. under L. 15 a-year,	1

All the reſt of the inhabitants are cottagers employed by the farmers. They are all of the Eſtabliſhed Church, except 1 Cameronian, 2 or 3 Burgher Seceders, and a few Epiſcopalians. The number of births within the pariſh, taken at an average of 10 years, amounts to 54. The average number of marriages for the laſt five years does not exceed 7; but it is to be obſerved, that there are many irregular marriages in the pariſh. As no regiſter of burials has hither-

to been kept, the average of deaths annually cannot be ascertained.

Agriculture, &c.—The annual produce of the parish may be nearly as follows:

Crops.	Number of acres under each.	Produce an acre, Win. Bush.	Price the Bush.	Price the acre.	Total Produce, Win. Bush.	Total value.
Wheat,	40	30	6 s.	9 0 0	1200	360 0 0
Barley,	550	36	3 s.	5 8 0	19800	2970 0 0
Oats,	2000	40	2 s.	4 10 0	80000	8000 0 0
Peaſe,	20	15	3 s.	2 5 0	300	45 0 0
Beans,	20	15	4 s.	3 0 0	300	60 0 0
Potatoes,	200	180	1 s.	9 0 0	36000	1800 0 0
Turnip,	60			3 0 0		180 0 0
Flax,	15			8 0 0		90 0 0
Sown graſs,	300			5 0 0		1500 0 0
Meadow,	300			1 10 0		450 0 0
Paſture,	3500			0 10 6		1837 10 0
Coarſe ditto,	2500			0 2 6		312 10 0
Moſs,	735			0 1 0		36 15 0
Houſe rents,						100 0 0
Fiſhings,						500 0 0
	10240 acres.				Total val. ann. prod. L.	18241 0 15

The pariſh not only ſupplies the inhabitants with proviſions, but exports conſiderable quantities to the Engliſh markets, and ſometimes to Clyde. The annual exports of the pariſh may be nearly as follows:

1000

1000	Buſhels of wheat, at 6 s. -	L. 300	0	0
10000	Buſhels of barley, at 3 s. -	1500	0	0
25000	Buſhels of oats, at 2 s. - -	2500	0	0
150	Buſhels of peaſe, at 3 s. - -	22	10	0
150	Buſhels of beans, at 4 s. - -	30	0	0
100	Tons of potatoes, at 20 s. -	100	0	0
200	Firkins of butter, at 28 s. -	280	0	0
50	Cwt of cheeſe, at 28 s. -	70	0	0
350	Swine fatted, and ſold at L. 3, -	1050	0	0
350	Black cattle, of 2 years old, at L. 2,	700	0	0
190	Calves, fatted and ſold at 15 s. -	137	10	0
80	Cows, ſold at L. 6, - -	480	0	0
200	Cart load of hay, at 20s. -	200	0	0
	Fiſh uncertain, but may be eſtimated at	450	0	0
	Total value of annual exports, -	L. 7820	0	0

The Stock of the Pariſh may be as follows:

400	Cows at L. 6. - -	L. 2400	0	0
500	Young cattle, at L. 2, 10 s. -	1250	0	0
286	Horſes, at L. 10, - -	2860	0	0
528	Swine, at L. 1, 10 s. - -	792	0	0
40	Sheep, at L. 1, - -	40	0	0
120	Ploughs, at L. 2, - -	240	0	0
209	Carts, at L. 5, - - -	1045	0	0
15	Tumbrils, at L. 2, 10 s. - -	37	10	0
	Other implements of huſbandry, -	600	0	0
2	Four wheeled chaiſes, - -	80	0	0
	Total value of Stock, -	L. 9344	10	0

Imports.

Imports.

At Sarkfoot are imported annually, 3000 tons of coals from Cumberland, at 6 s. -	L. 900 0 0
2000 Load of timber from Riga and Memel, at L. 3, 15 s. - - -	7500 0 0
1000 Barrels of tar, chiefly from America, at 15 s. - - -	750 0 0
120 Tons of salt from Pittenweem, at L. 6 the ton, - - -	720 0 0
200 Tons of slate from Lancashire and Wales, at L. 1, 12 s. the ton, - -	320 0 0
Total annual value of imports, -	L. 10190 0 0

The annual produce of this parish has been greatly increased of late years, by the improvements which have been made, as the several proprietors have exerted themselves with a laudable emulation in the melioration of their respective estates. The arable lands are all inclosed at the expense of the landlord, and the stone-fences and hedges, which are in a thriving condition, are upheld by the tenants. Several of the farms are in a very high state of cultivation. and the rest are daily improving. It is believed, that the rental of the parish has been tripled in the course of the last 25 years. The manure used here is dung and lime, brought from the Donkin's lime-works, in the parish of Middlebie, or from Haymuir, in the parish of Kirkpatrick, and sometimes from the hollows, in the parish of Cannobie. The price the bushel at Donkin's is 11 d. and at the other places 7 d. or 8 d. This difference in the price, is owing to the difference of the prices of the coals used in burning the limestone. The farmers here use the English

Engliſh or Rotheram plough only, with the curved mold-board. It is drawn by two horſes, without a driver, and commonly ploughs about an acre a-day. The rotation of cropping, in general, is, firſt year, wheat or oats; ſecond year, oats; third year, turnip or potatoes; fourth year, barley, ſown out with clover and rye-graſs. The land, ſown out in this manner, is uſually mown for one year, then paſtured two years, and afterwards ploughed, and undergoes the ſame rotation of crops. The pariſh is the property of 4 heritors, the Earl of Hopetoun, Earl of Mansfield, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. and Mr Graham of Moſsknow; none of whom reſide. No part of the pariſh is commonty. Every proprietor knows the preciſe limits of his eſtate. The farms in this diſtrict are in general of ſmall extent. There is, however, one farm let at L. 300, and another at L. 186. All the reſt are conſiderably ſmaller. The land here lets from 5 s. to 20 s. the acre *.

Stipend,

* *Prices, Wages, Expenſes, Earnings, &c.*—The average price of wheat is 5 s. 6 d. of barley, 2 s. 8 d. and of oats 2 s. the Winchester buſhel. Meal is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. the ſtone of 17½ lb. The preſent average price of beef and veal, is 3¼ d. the lb; of mutton and lamb, 3½ d. and of pork 4 d. the lb. of 16 ounces. A turkey is ſold at 3 s. a gooſe at 2 s. 6 d. a hen at 8 d. a duck at 8 d. cheeſe at 3 d. and butter at 6 d. the lb. of 16 ounces. The prices of proviſions of all kinds are greatly increaſed of late years. The farmers here live leſs on butter and cheeſe, than they ſeem to have done formerly. They think that they find an advantage in ſelling theſe articles, and in buying butcher-meat. There is an exceedingly good fleſh-market in the village of Graitney Green, where upwards of L. 700 worth of butcher-meat of all kinds, and of the beſt qualities, is killed and ſold annually, the greateſt part of which is conſumed in this pariſh and neighbourhood. In conſequence of our vicinity to England, as in other bordering pariſhes, wages and the price of labour are generally high, as many of the young people of both ſexes go into Cumberland, where a male ſervant can have from L. 8 to L. 12 and upwards, and a female

Stipend, School, Poor.—The stipend is L. 760 Scots, including L. 60 Scots for communion-elements, and 5 chalders of victual, two thirds of which are payable in meal, and the other third in bear, amounting, *communibus annis*, to about L. 120 Sterling. The glebe is but small, and lies at the distance of more than two miles from the church, which renders it less valuable to the minister. In the 1789 and 1790, the church and offices were all new built, and the manse repaired at a considerable expense. Lord Mansfield is patron.—There is in the parish one schoolmaster only, who has a salary of 100 merks Scots. This, and the school-wages, including an house and garden, may amount to about L. 20 Sterling annually. The school-house, and the house in which the schoolmaster resides, were both built not many years ago, and are at present in excellent

3 repair.

male servant from L. 4 to L. 6 yearly, and sometimes for the spring and harvest quarters, a stout young man will get from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 4, 10 s. especially in the autumn. It is believed that the wages of labouring servants are nearly the same in this district. From Candlemas to Martinmas the wages of a day-labourer are 1 s. 2 d. without victuals, and 8 d. with them, and in the winter quarter, they are 1 s. without victuals, and 6 d. with them. Men and women have only 8 d. a-day for reaping, when their provisions are furnished them, and 1 s. 2 d. when they furnish their own provisions. Tradesmen, such as masons and joiners, have 1 s. 8 d. a-day without, and 1 s. 2 d. with meat, bricklayers and slaters, 2 s. 6 d. tailors 8 d. with, and 1 s. 2 d. without their victuals. But all these generally work by the piece. With these wages, the industrious tradesman and labourer support their families in a pretty decent and comfortable manner, if sickness, bad weather, &c. prevent them not from following their respective employments.

A labourer's annual earnings may be as follows:

7 s. a-week for the summer and harvest quarters,	L. 9	2 0
6 s. a-week for the winter and spring quarters, —	7	16 0
Total annual earnings,	L. 16	18 0

The

repair. There are generally two, and ſometimes three other perſons, who teach in different parts of the pariſh. They are paid by the ſcholars, and may make about L. 14 or L. 15 each yearly.—The number of perſons on the poors roll, taken at an average of the laſt 5 years, is 24. There are no funds in the pariſh for their ſupport, but the weekly collections, amounting to about L. 18 yearly *.

Antiquities.

The annual expenſes of a labourer's family, conſiſting of himſelf, a wife, and four ſmall children, may be as follows:

Houſe rent, including a ſmall garden and potato-ground,	L.	1	0 0
1½ ſtones of oat-meal a-week, at 1 s. 8 d. the ſtone, —		6	10 0
Milk and butter a-week, 1 s. — —		2	12 0
Tea and ſugar, a-year, — —		0	15 0
Soap, candles, and ſalt, &c. — —		0	15 0
Tear and wear of their Sunday's clothes, —		1	0 0
A working jacket, veſt, breeches, ſhirts, ſtockings, clogs, handkerchief, and hat, for the man, —		1	10 0
A bed gown, petticoats, ſhift, ſtockings, clogs, handkerchief, and cap, for his wife, — — —		1	0 0
A new veſt, breeches, &c. for each of the four children, at 10 s. each ſuit, — —		2	0 0
School-wages for two of the children, —		0	12 0
Coal or peats for fuel, — —		1	0 0
Total annual expenſes,	L.	18	14 0

The annual expenſes exceed the man's annual earnings L. 1, 16 s.; but the deficiency may be made up by the wife's induſtry, as ſhe generally works in hay time and harveſt, by which ſhe may earn about L. 1, at an average, and by ſpinning the remainder of the year, may earn about 1 s. a-week, beſides doing the buſineſs of her family. When potatoes are a good crop, there will be a ſaving in the article of oat-meal, which is generally expended in purchaſing better clothes, or a little butcher-meat.

* *Friendly Society of Kirkpatrick-Fleming and Graitney.* The object of this ſociety is to provide a fund for the ſupport of the labouring part of the community here, when they are rendered incapable of earning a livelihood for themſelves by ſickneſs or old age. It was inſtituted about ſix years

Antiquities.—The remains of a Druidical temple are ſtill to be ſeen on the farm of Graitney Mains. It is of an oval form, and incloſes about half an acre of ground. It is formed of large rough whin or moorſtones, which muſt have been brought from a conſiderable diſtance, there being no ſtones of this kind within 10 or 12 miles of this place. One of the largeſt of theſe ſtones, which is commonly called Lochmaben ſtone, meaſures 118 cubical feet, the total weight of which, ſuppoſing each cubical foot to weigh 12 ſtone, muſt be 20 tons and upwards. The reſt are conſiderably ſmaller. The ſite of this temple is ſaid to be famous for having been the place where alliances were anciently formed between the two nations. The remains of two or three ſquare towers are ſtill to be ſeen in different parts of the pariſh. They ſeem to have been places of defence againſt the incurſions of the Engliſh borderers. There are in the poſſeſſion of James Graham, formerly of this pariſh, but now in the pariſh of Dornoch, 29 ſmall ſilver coins, which were found incloſed in a ſmall wooden box, in a moſs near the Hirſt; 25 of them are about the ſize of ſixpences, and the remaining four ſomewhat ſmaller. A few of them ſeem to have been ſtruck at Canterbury, but the greateſt part of them at London, apparently in the reign of one of the King Edward's, but there is no legible date on any of them.

Natural

years ago, and is compoſed chiefly of labourers and mechanics. Several of the principal farmers in both pariſhes alſo have become members of this ſociety, merely with a view to encourage it, from a conviction, that it is an excellent inſtitution, and, if properly conducted, may be productive of much advantage to a very deſerving deſcription of men. Each member contributes a ſmall ſum quarterly, which is gradually accumulating into a fund; from which every member in diſtreſs draws a ſtated allowance weekly, according to the regulations of the ſociety. Several of the members have already derived much advantage from this inſtitution.

Natural Curioſity.—In autumn 1792, the tackſmen of a free ſtone quarry, belonging to the then Viſcount of Stormont, and lying near the foot of the water of Kutle, in working the ſame, diſcovered a maſs of tar, incruſted on all ſides with the rock. The hollow in which it was found, would have held about 1½ gallons Scotch meaſure, and the quantity of tar found was about 1¼ Engliſh pints. When the tar was tried, it burned in the fire like common tar, extracted from fir, but had a ſulphureous ſmell. It was ſoft when found, and became fluid in the fire. The rock in which it was found is a white freeſtone, of a good quality. The workmen are of opinion, that it has proceeded from a ſpring on the north-weſt ſide of the quarry. This ſpring leaves a black ſlimy ſubſtance like tar; and this ſubſtance, as they think, oozing through the foot of the rock, has produced the maſs deſcribed above.

Village of Springfield.—In the year 1791, a new village was begun on the farm of Springfield, belonging to Sir William Maxwell, where upwards of 40 houſes have been already built, or are now building. This village is ſituated on a dry healthy ſoil, upon an eminence above the Sark, the river which is here the boundary of the united kingdoms. The plan of the village is perfectly regular. The ſtreets are 50 feet wide, and the houſes are all built of freeſtone or bricks, and covered with blue ſlate. A great part of the land adjacent to the village, and belonging to the proprietor, has been incloſed, and the fences planted with quicks and hedge-rows of trees. Each ſettler is accommodated with an incloſure of 6 or 4 acres at a moderate rent, and upon a leaſe for 19 years. The building leaſes are for 99 years. Several weavers are now ſettling in this village, and as the proprietor is exerting himſelf for the eſtabliſhment of manufactures of different kinds, there

ſeems to be little doubt of this village becoming a very conſiderable place in a ſhort time, from the many advantages which it poſſeſſes with reſpect to its ſituation. Both coal and peat are to be had here at no great diſtance, and at a moderate expenſe. There is a ſmall river contiguous to the village, and the ſea-port at Sarkfoot is not above a mile diſtant from it. The great road from England by Moffat to Edinburgh and Glaſgow, and the great road by Dumfries to Port-Patrick, and by Dumfries, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, &c. to Glaſgow, all paſs through this village.

Roads.—There are two turnpike roads which paſs through this pariſh. The road from England by Moffat to Edinburgh and to Glaſgow, by Hamilton, and the road from England by Drumfries to Port-Patrick, and to Glaſgow by Sanquhar, Muirkirk, &c. and which roads ſeparate at Headleſs-Croſs, about 200 yards to the weſtward of the new village of Springfield*.

Graitney-Hall.—This houſe, in which an heritor formerly reſided, is now fitted up in a very elegant and commodious manner as an inn by the Earl of Hopeton, the proprietor, where poſt-chaiſes are kept, and every accommodation

* There were no turnpike roads in this part of the country till the year 1777, when an act of Parliament was obtained for repairing certain roads in the county of Dumfries, by the aid of tolls, and for commuting the ſtatute-labour; the truſtees under that act being empowered to aſſeſs the proprietors and occupiers of land, in a ſum not exceeding 12 s. on each 100 merks of valuation, for the purpoſes of repairing, and keeping in repair, the different roads within the county The benefit which has been derived from this act of Parliament has been univerſally felt and acknowledged; and it is from that period, and from this circumſtance, that every real and extenſive improvement in this part of the country, and in the county of Dumfries, is to be dated, and has ariſen.

dation may be had that is to be found in the beſt inns in England.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are 2 bridges, the one of one arch over the Sark, and the other of two arches on the Port-Patrick road over the Kirtle, lately rebuilt in a very ſubſtantial manner. There is an exceedingly good wheat, barley and oat mill, well ſupplied with water, where the greateſt part of the grain in the pariſh is grinded. We have very little natural wood. There is a plantation of full grown trees at Graitney-Hall, and there are ſeveral belts and clumps of young plantations in different parts of the pariſh, which in time will be a very great ornament to this part of the country. The common fuel uſed here is peats. The expenſes of cutting, drying and leading them may be eſtimated at about 1 s. the cart-load. Coals are brought from Archerbeck in the pariſh of Cannobie. They coſt 1 s. 6 d. the cart-load at the pit. They are likewiſe brought by water-carriage from Cumberland. By landing them on the Engliſh ſide, the payment of the duty is evaded, and they coſt 6 s. the ton, or 3 s. the cart-load. Theſe are perhaps cheaper than the Archerbeck coal, which are about 10 miles diſtant from this place.

NOTE.

Clandeſtine Marriages.——This pariſh has been long famous in the annals of matrimonial adventure, for the marriages of fugitive lovers from England, which have been celebrated here. People living at a diſtance erroneouſly ſuppoſe that the regular and eſtabliſhed clergyman of this pariſh is the celebrator of thoſe marriages: Whereas the perſons who follow this illicit practice, are mere impoſtors, prieſts of their own erection, who have no right whatever, either to marry, or to exerciſe any part of the clerical function. There are, at preſent, more than one of this deſcription in this place But the greateſt part of the trade is monopoliſed by a man who was originally a tobacconiſt, and not a blackſmith, as is generally believed. He is a fellow without literature, without principles, without morals, and without manners. His life is a continued

ſcene

ſcene of drunkenneſs. His irregular conduct has rendered him an object of deteſtation to all the ſober and virtuous part of the neighbourhood. Such is the man (and the deſcription is not exaggerated) who has had the honour to join, in the ſacred bonds of wedlock, many people of great rank and fortune from all parts of England. It is 40 years and upwards ſince marriages of this kind began to be celebrated here. At the loweſt computation about 60 are ſuppoſed to be ſolemnized annually in this place. Taken at an average through the year, they may be eſtimated at 15 guineas each; conſequently this traffic brings in about L. 945 a-year. The form of ceremony, when any ceremony is uſed, is that of the Church of England. On ſome occaſions, particularly when the parſon is intoxicated, which is often the caſe, a certificate only is given. The certificate is ſigned by the parſon himſelf, and two witneſſes under fictitious ſignatures. The following is a

Copy of one of theſe Certificates, in the original Spelling:

"This is to ſartfay all perſons that my be conſernid, that A. B from the pariſh of C. and in county of D. and E F. from the pariſh of G. and in the county of H. and both comes before me and declayred themſeleſs both to be ſingle perſons, and now mayried by the forme of the Kirk of Scotland, and agreible to the Church of England, and givine ondre my hand, this 18th day of March, 1793."

Is it not a diſgrace to the police of a civilized country, to permit ſuch irregularities to be practiſed with impunity? And is it not a reflection on the good ſenſe and diſcernment of the Nobility and Gentry of England, (for ſome of the Engliſh Nobility have been married here), to ſuffer themſelves to be impoſed upon, and their pockets to be picked, by ſuch miſcreants?

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF DUNLOP,

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR, PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE).

By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BRISBANE.

Name, Extent, Rivulets, &c.

NOTHING is ſeemingly more arbitrary and capricious than the names of places, and nothing is for that reaſon perhaps leſs attended to and underſtood; owing, as we ſuppoſe, their origin to mere fancy or arbitrary will, we think them unworthy of a ſerious inveſtigation, and that every attempt to account for them, is but a confirmation of what we ſuppoſe. On the other extreme, is the opinion of thoſe who allow, indeed, that they may be traced, and their meaning aſcertained, but that in order to this, ancient times muſt be conſulted, and ancient tales be believed. Whatever, therefore, comes ſtamped with this authority, and has any relation, though but in ſound to the name, is admitted as a matter of importance, and ſufficient to ſettle every inquiry of this kind. To ſuch perſons the marvellous

marvellous and improbable are ſo far from being objections, that they rather appear to be natural for the times that gave them birth, and neceſſary to give dignity and permanancy to what they were intended to expreſs. It is for this reaſon, that the names of places have been explained in the moſt fanciful manner, and circumſtances adduced in the explication of them, that exceed every degree of probability, and are evidently falſe. The name before us, as accounted for by ſome, is one of theſe. According to them, there was among the Danes who infeſted this country, a man of extraordinary ſtrength and ſtature, and that upon a time, to ſhow I ſuppoſe his extraordinary folly, he made a remarkable leap from a hill in the neighbourhood of the place where the church now ſtands, and that to this incident the hill itſelf and the pariſh are indebted for their name. But without examining into the merits of this ſtory, or regretting that it had not been more circumſtantially told, we need only obſerve, that the name is with much more probability derived from an old and reſpectable family in the pariſh, or from its hilly appearance *Dun-lop* or *Dun-luib*, ſignifying, in Gaelic, "a winding or circuitous hill;" and were we to credit the tradition, that the houſe of Dunlop ſtood originally on the top of Dunlop-hill, we might be led from this circumſtance, and the appearance of the ground about it, to ſuppoſe, that it might be called, in the language of the times, the houſe on, or the houſe of the winding hill, and that the family itſelf might afterward aſſume that name, and give it to the pariſh. The pariſh is of an oblong figure, being about 7 Engliſh miles long, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Neilſton, Stewartoun, and Beith. From the firſt of theſe it is ſeparated in front by a ſmall burn or brook on the E. from the ſecond in the ſame manner on the S. and from the laſt by Lugton on the N. This has its ſource in the pariſh of

Neilſton, is well ſtored with fiſh, eſpecially trout, and is at preſent only worthy of notice for the extent of country through which it paſſes, and the winding courſe which it takes in its progreſs to Garnoch, which it turns in the neighbourhood of Kilwinning. There are no rivers, and but 2 burns in the pariſh, one of which is conſiderable enough to afford a ſufficient ſupply of water during the winter, and in wet ſeaſons, to the mills which are erected on it, and is ſaid to contain the charhe or chare, a ſpecies of trout of the fineſt quality.

Roads.—By means of the roads which interſect it in different places, there is an eaſy acceſs to every part of the pariſh, and likewiſe to the country and town around it. In conſequence of this, the people have frequent and friendly intercourſe with one another, know the value of every thing they have to ſell, and can bring it to the beſt market. To the ſame cauſe, perhaps, may be aſcribed that poliſh and urbanity which they have in common with their neighbours, and that fondneſs for dreſs which is ſo obſervable on public occaſions.

Surface, Soil, and Produce.—The pariſh of Dunlop may be ſaid to ſtand upon high ground, and to conſiſt of a great variety of hills. None of theſe, however, are remarkable for their height, but many of them for the beautiful and extenſive proſpects which they give, and all of them for the rich graſs which they produce, ariſing from an elevated baſe, which occupies great part of the pariſh. The ground, though hilly, is of eaſy acceſs, and well adapted to the purpoſes of paſture and agriculture. For the ſame reaſon, it abounds in ſprings of excellent water; and being moreover within a few miles of the ſea, it is bleſſed with a pure and healthful air. In conſequence of this, the people are ſub-

ject

ject to few diseases, and generally live to a good old age. In the western parts of the parish, the soil is either light or of a thin clay, and towards the E. the prevailing soil is deep and heavy, with a cold wet bottom. And this, it is probable, has given rise to a practice unknown in other parts of the country, and which strangers are apt to consider as foolish and unaccountable. The custom is, to plough with 4 horses and 3 men; 2 of the men are employed in the usual way; but the third, with a long pole fixed to the beam of the plough, directs the beam, and assists the ploughman. By this mode, of an ancient date among them, they imagine they do more and better work in the same time, than could be done by any other method: But whether the advantages of this, supposing them to be real, will overbalance the expense of an additional horse and servant, is certainly a question of some importance, especially to those who have nothing but custom to justify their continuance of it. In a place like this, where the farms are small, and where the ploughing is carried on by two neighbours jointly, this expense is indeed not so readily perceived; yet still it must be for their interest to perceive it, and for their credit, as proper farmers, to retrench it. From what has been said concerning the difference of soil, it is easy to see that there will be a difference also in what it produces. The crops accordingly, which are usually oats, are better and more productive in the first and second, than they are in the third division of soil; those of the former yielding from 17 to 19, and those of the latter but from 12 to 15 pecks of meal the boll. The average rate, however, of meal the boll, for the whole parish, will not exceed 14 pecks, though the boll here contains a bushel more than it does in most other counties in Scotland. And what may appear a little strange for a parish not of great

extent

extent, the harveſt is concluded ſome ſeaſons five * ſooner in the weſtern than it is in the eaſtern extremity of it. But the principal produce, or manufacture, as it may be called, of the pariſh, is cheeſe. For this it has been long known and diſtinguiſhed, inſomuch that all the cheeſe made in the country about it, when carried to Paiſley, Glaſgow, or farther, goes by the name of Dunlop cheeſe, and finds a better market on that account. Nor is this preference to be aſcribed altogether to prejudice; for it is certainly as good as ever it was, and equal, if not ſuperior, to what is made any where elſe. The practice of making ſweet-milk cheeſe, as it is called, was firſt introduced into this pariſh by one Barbara Gilmour, whoſe grandſon is ſtill living, and is proprietor of the ſame farm. Having gone to Ireland, to avoid the hardſhips which people were then expoſed to on account of religion, ſhe is ſaid to have brought it with her when ſhe returned about the time of the Revolution. Since that period, cheeſe has been the great and almoſt the only buſineſs of Dunlop. Senſible that their ſituation was more favourable for this than for any other purpoſe, the people beſtowed upon it the greateſt care, and turned it to the beſt advantage.—They have incloſed their ground, have but a third or fourth of it in tillage, and the reſt in graſs, which is always a plentiful crop, and of the fineſt quality. They are very attentive both to the colour and ſhape of their cows, which are rather ſmall than otherwiſe, and commonly of their own raiſing. And as theſe feed in incloſures, free from the reſtraints of herding, and are not brought into houſes during the night, from the beginning of May to the end of harveſt, the quantity of milk which they give is very great. I am ſorry that under this article I cannot give the reader all the information I could wiſh, either as

* Perhaps the word omitted by the author is "weeks."

to the number of cows that is kept, or the quantity of cheeſe that is made in the pariſh. The people were alarmed when queſtioned about theſe things, and alleging that this was valuing their farms, they refuſed to give me any ſatisfaction on this head; only from what I could collect, ſo far as I went with this view, I ſhould ſuppoſe that there may be about 758 cows kept, and about 10,612 ſtones of cheeſe made in it annually, which is equal to L. 3714, 4 s. at 7 s. a-ſtone, the market-price at preſent. And to this they are well entitled, both on account of the quantity and quality of their cheeſe. For as this is the produce of the richeſt paſture, and the beſt cows, ſo nothing can exceed their integrity and cleanlineſs in manufacturing it. Like that made in ſome of the counties of England, it appears to great diſadvantage when new, but improves by age and proper keeping. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4115, 17 s. 6 d. Scots. The real rent upwards of L. 3000 Sterling*.

Population.

* It might be expected, in a country like this, which is all incloſed, that there would be a good deal of plantation, or at leaſt that hedge-rows would be frequent and in a thriving condition. The truth is, though trees be neceſſary both in point of utility and ornament, and though nature points with an high hand as it were to many places where theſe ſhould be; yet they are only to be found in ſmall numbers, where an houſe ſtands, or where one has ſtood. This general obſervation, however, admits of two exceptions. Mr Dunlop of Dunlop has planted ſome thouſands of trees of different kinds within theſe few years; and from his good taſte and great attention, there is every reaſon to expect that he will proceed on a larger ſcale. The late Mr Muir of Caldwall was a man of the fineſt taſte, and in nothing perhaps did his ſuperiority in that more appear, than in the manner in which he has laid off his ground, and placed his different plantations. Theſe, ſkirting and interſecting his ſeveral farms, add both to their beauty and value; and afford a pleaſant proof, how much the face of a country, naturally bleak and unpropitious, may be changed and improved. But an example of this kind was not likely to be followed by thoſe whoſe properties are but ſmall, and whoſe ſtudy is economy, reſiding the greater part of them on their own farms, and depending in a great meaſure on what they produce, they

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls then was 796. At the concluſion of the year 1791, the population of the pariſh, and the diviſion of its inhabitants, were according to the following table:

Population 50 years ago,	- -	600
——— in the year 1791,	- -	779
Average of marriages,	for 12 years,	8
——— births,	as above com-	16
——— deaths,	puted,	11
Inhabitants in the village,	- -	112
——— country,	- -	667
Number of males,	- - -	389
——— females,	- -	390
——— perſons under 10 years of age,		166
——— between 10 and 20,		171
——— 20 and 50,		318
——— 50 and 70,		99
——— 70 and 100		25

Number

they conſider every ſpot they poſſeſs as of immediate uſe, and uſeful only as it bears a crop, or feeds a cow. Plans, therefore, of diſtant proſpect, and of future advantage, but which muſt be attended with preſent expenſe, are ſeldom thought of, and never adopted. Under theſe circumſtances, it is not to be wondered at, if the pariſh is, with reſpect to trees, what it was in the days of their fathers, very naked and bare; indeed, after what has been ſaid, the reader will be ſurpriſed when he is told, that in no pariſh of the ſame limits, and inhabited by ſo plain and frugal a people, will he find a greater number of good ſubſtantial houſes. Many of theſe are ſlated, and finiſhed in a ſtyle that ſhows what might be done in other things, was there the ſame inducement. Thoſe above us in rank or riches, may call forth our eſteem or admiration; but thoſe in equal ſtation with ourſelves call forth our emulation, and theſe active principles by which we are urged from one thing to another, and always farther than we would otherwiſe go, merely that we may preſerve our equality, and our wonted diſtinction from thoſe beneath us; and when we attribute one part of their improvement to this, it is natural to hope, that ſome time or other the ſame principle will operate as powerfully towards their improvement in other reſpects; and that the nakedneſs of the land will no longer ſtare every ſtranger in the face.

Number of families, - -	160
——— married perſons, -	244
——— Seceders, - -	16
——— proprietors reſiding, -	41
——— non-reſiding,	17
——— tenants, - -	63
——— male-ſervants, - -	32
——— female-ſervants, - -	61
——— maſons, - -	6
——— weavers, - -	12
——— carpenters or wrights, -	6
——— ſmiths, - - -	3
——— ſhoemakers, - -	3
——— tailors, - - -	4
——— labourers, - -	23
——— innkeepers, - -	3
——— poor, - -	8
Capital of their ſtock, about -	L. 325
Annual income, about - -	37
Number of churches, - -	1
——— clergyman, - -	1
——— ſchools, - - -	1
——— ſchoolmaſter, - -	1*

Language,

* With regard to the population of the pariſh 50 years ago, it is a little uncertain, whether the number therein ſtated comprehended every individual, or theſe only who were of age to be examined. If the latter only, the number of the people would be much the ſame then with what it is at preſent; but it is more probable that the firſt was the caſe, as the diviſion of property has been frequent, and the number of proprietors conſiderably increaſed ſince that time. With reſpect to the liſt of perſons between 70 and 100, it may be obſerved, that 17 of theſe were from 70 to 80, and 8 of them from that to 100; 2 of theſe are ſince dead, 1 of them aged 85, and the other 92. The moſt remarkable inſtances of

Language, Cuſtoms and Character.—With regard to the people in general, and thoſe things which mark and diſtinguiſh them, it may be obſerved, that they retain nothing of

longevity of late years, were James Anderſon, who died at the advanced age of 100, and John Andrew, ſo old as 102, according to the report of his family. As to proprietors and tenants, it may be noticed, that there are but few of the former whoſe properties are extenſive, and of the latter whoſe farms are large; and as the greater part of each of theſe is in graſs, the labour of the female becomes more neceſſary than that of the male ſervant to manage them. And this accounts for the diſproportion that is between them. The number of both however is diminiſhed during the winter, both becauſe they are leſs neceſſary, and becauſe their wages are very high. The men get from L. 4 to L. 6, and the women from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. for the half-year. From which it is obvious to remark, that labour is very expenſive here. The wages of an ordinary labourer are from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d. a-day, from the beginning of February to the end of November, and in time of harveſt they are ſtill higher, as then he gets the ſame wages and his proviſions alſo. How to account for this it muſt be conſidered, that there are but few of this claſs, and that theſe few live within two hours walk of the great works in a neighbouring pariſh, where they can find employment at all times and on their own terms. Having a ſituation ſo inviting always before them, and circumſtances of advantage, which it is not their intereſt to neglect, ſo eaſily in their power, it is natural for them to avail themſelves of them, which they accordingly never fail to do; ſo that it is impoſſible to ſay what the price of labour, and where labourers may be found in a few years in this part of the country. From what I have ſaid, it will be eaſily inferred, that there are none of theſe works within the bounds of this charge; and conſidering its diſtance from coal and fuel of every kind, and its deficiency in water to anſwer theſe purpoſes, it is more than probable that none of them ever will be in it. Nor is this a matter of any regret to me, how much ſoever I may ſuffer with others, from the cauſes which prevent them. For although I rejoice in the proſperity of my country, and in every thing that tends to the improvement and happineſs of mankind, yet in the caſe alluded to, there is reaſon, I apprehend, to rejoice with trembling. Works that depend ſo much on the labour of the young, and that muſt neceſſarily crowd ſo many of them together, muſt be hurtful to their health, and holding out an early and ſtrong temptation to indigent and negligent parents to part with their children, at a time when they ſhould be attending to that education which

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of the language which was originally ſpoken in the country, except the names of ſome places, which are evidently Gaelic, ſuch as Knockmead, Duniflat, &c. Breckenhaugh, (which is a Scotch word), is the name of one of the fineſt natural objects that is to be met with in this part of the country; for walking upon level ground, which ſeems to be of conſiderable extent in all directions, we come, without expecting it, to the top of the hill, where we are ſtruck with

is neceſſary to form their minds, and ſecure their uſefulneſs, they muſt be eventually at leaſt hurtful to their manners; not to mention, that by collecting ſo many people of all deſcriptions into one place, they may materially affect, if not exhauſt the funds of the poor. But it is not my intention to reflect upon works, in which human ingenuity ſeems to be carried almoſt as far as it can go, and in which perſons of the firſt character and greateſt reſpectability are concerned. And therefore I remark, that as to what relates to the poor, thoſe ſtated in the table are not the only perſons who receive from the funds. There are beſides theſe, ſeveral others whom it is found neceſſary to aſſiſt from time to time, but who are not entered on the poors liſt, becauſe they are able to do ſomething for themſelves, and that they may be the more induſtrious. The capital of their fund commenced about 60 years ago in the time of Mr Rouat. He was what is called a popular preacher, and popular with this peculiarity, that he was equally eſteemed by the great and the common people; and being well attended every Sabbath by both, the collections were ſuch as to enable the ſeſſion or veſtry, to raiſe a little, as a ſtock, which has been increaſing ever ſince, and is now pretty conſiderable. The intereſt ariſing from this and the contributions at the church door on Sundays form the annual income, which is appropriated to the exigencies of the poor, and is uſually more than ſufficient to anſwer their demands and to put them above the neceſſity of begging. Begging, however, is daily practiſed by thoſe who come from other places. Reſtrained from following this at home, and knowing how ready the people here are to liſten to them, and relieve them, they pour in upon them from every quarter, and importune them every hour. But that cannot be charity which brings abroad the idle and the diſeaſed, and that cannot be charity which diſtributes with an indiſcriminating hand. Charity thinketh no evil, but charity muſt think the truth; and while it does, it muſt as infallibly lead us to diſcountenance begging, as it will lead us to be merciful, and full of compaſſion to the poor.

with the greatneſs of the height, and the grandeur of the valley below. In this ſituation, we feel every thing which the magnificent can inſpire, not without a wiſh to retire from it with all convenient ſpeed.—The language which they ſpeak is a mixture of Scotch and Engliſh, and has no other ſingularity, but the ſlow drawling manner in which it is ſpoken, and that they uniformly pronounce *ſow*, *ſai-w*, and *mow*, *mai-w*. The only cuſtom which they may be ſaid to retain is that of having great and expenſive burials. It is no unuſual thing when a wealthy perſon dies, to invite two or three pariſhes to attend his funeral; and as they are limited to no particular hour, great part of the day is taken up in coming to it, and waiting on it. But the loſs of labour, and the loſs of time, are not the only evils that follow it; it becomes oppreſſive to thoſe who cannot afford the expenſe, but who, from vanity or pride, muſt continue the cuſtom. Many things have been objects of taxation, and were this as univerſal as it is unneceſſary, it would be wiſe and merciful in the Legiſlature not to exempt it. In deſcribing their character, it may be juſtly ſaid, that they are of the principles of the Church of Scotland, and that theſe have the happieſt influence on their civil and religious conduct. Warmly attached to the conſtitution in Church and State, they are zealouſly affected for the intereſts of both, and are almoſt as rarely ſeen to ſeparate from the church as they are heard to be diſloyal to their King. Nor are they leſs exemplary in the other duties of their ſtation; ſo that it but ſeldom happens, that any of them are addicted to the common vices of the age; and there are but few of them who cannot ſhow, that the hand of the diligent maketh rich. Among a people of this complexion, taverns cannot be numerous, nor be attended with bad effects; for few will be inclined to keep them, where little buſineſs and little profits are to

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be expected. There would accordingly be ſtill fewer than the preſent number in the pariſh, were it not for the public roads, which are frequented by ſtrangers, and from whom chiefly they derive their encouragement, ſmall as it is.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Stipend, School, &c.—The next article in order is the church, under which it may be proper to give ſome account of it in ancient and modern times. Dunlop was one of the many pariſhes that had been appropriated to the monaſtery of Kilwinning, and of which that monaſtery became the beneficiary or titular. This is evident from a tranſaction between the Commendator of Kilwinning and Cuninghame of Arket, in the year 1581, whereby the former gives in tack to the latter the whole teinds, parſonage and vicarage, of the pariſh of Dunlop, for a certain number of years, and with the exception of certain lands therein ſpecified. At an early period, therefore, and as ſoon perhaps as it was deſigned a pariſh, it may be ſuppoſed, that it would have a pariſh-church, and that the church may have ſtood at firſt at a place which is called the Temple-houſe to this day. But when it was built, and how long it continued there, cannot be known, as there is no veſtige of it remaining, and as the tradition concerning it is almoſt gone. The next place where we find it, although equally uncertain of the time of its erection, is in a ſituation which was happily choſen for the purpoſes of duration in thoſe days, ſtanding at the bottom of a rock, extending itſelf in the form of a breaſt-work, and under the gloom of the trees and bruſhwood with which it would be covered. It poſſeſſed every thing that was requiſite to inſpire the worſhippers with reverence, and to promote the ſeverity of their acts of mortification, which the nature of their ſin, or the pleaſure of their prieſt, might enjoin; but whether it was cuſtomary in theſe caſes, to repair to a

large

large detached ſtone in the field above, and there to perform part of them, is ſomewhat doubtful. The ſtone has been called, time immemorial, Thugirtſtane, for the reaſon juſt now hinted, ſay the people, but more probably for its being found by itſelf, Thugirtſtane being a corruption or an abbreviation of The girt or great ſtone. Hard by the church was a ſpring, which ſtill continues, and from which iſſues a ſtream of the fineſt water, and in ſuch abundance as to fill a bore of 2 inches diameter. It is ſtyled in all the old writings, which mention it, the Chaplainry of the bleſſed Virgin Mary, which ſhows, that it was dedicated to her; and that the ſtepping ſtones in the burn, over which the people paſſed in their way thither, were called the Lady's Steps, for the ſame reaſon; which name the place ſtill retains, although there be now a bridge at it. From what remains of it, it appears to have been a ſmall houſe, but large enough, it may be preſumed, to accommodate the inhabitants, which, probably it did till the Reformation, when it was either deſerted or deſtroyed. In a different and more elevated ſituation, ſtands the preſent church; but having been rebuilt about 27 years ago, the date of its firſt foundation, if there was one, has not been preſerved. It is pretty certain, however, from an inſcription on the graveſtone of Mr Hamilton, who died in the year 1608, and who is ſaid to have ſerved the cure here 45 years, that it was built at the Reformation, or ſoon after it *. The

* Having mentioned Mr Hamilton, I am naturally led to take notice of the tomb in which he and his wife are buried. It is built of hewed ſtone, and covered with a ſtone roof in the inſide; it is arched and plaſtered, and bears evident marks of having been painted and ornamented. In the floor, on a flat ſtone, is the following circumſcription. "Heir lyis Hanis Hamiltoune Vicar of Dunlope, quha deceiſit Ye 30 of Maii 1608, Ye aige of 72 zeirs, and of Janet Denhame his ſpous." At the eaſt end, under a marble arch, with two marble pillars of the Compoſite order in front,

Stipend, including what is allowed for communion-elements, is *communibus annis*, about L. 92 : 1 : 4 Sterling. The ſchool-houſe, which is a good ſubſtantial building, conſiſts of 2 floors, one of which is employed by the ſchool, and the other by the ſchoolmaſter's family. It was one of the

front, are two ſtatues kneeling on a marble monument, in the attitude of devotion, and habited according to the faſhion of the times. On the wall beyond them, which is alſo marble, are theſe lines in capital letters: "Here lye the the bodies of Hanis Hamilton ſonne of Archibald Hamilton of Raploch, ſervant to King James the Fift, and of Janet Denham his wife, daughter of James Denham, Laird of Weſtſhielde. They lived marvid together 45 yeeres, during which tyme the ſaid Hanis ſerved the cure at this church. They were much beloved of all that knew them, and eſpecially of the pariſhoners. They had ſix ſonnes, James, Archibald, Gavin, John, William and Patrick, and one daughter Jeane, maryed to William Muire of Glanderſtoune.

Rom 8 CH. ver. 18. The afflictions of this life are not worthy of the glory which ſhall be ſhowed unto us.

The duſt of time lyis in this artful Frame,
Whoſe birth them honored from an honored Name,
A painful Paſtor and his ſpotles Wife,
Whoſe devout Statues emblime here there Life,
Bleſt with the height of favors from Above,
Blood, Grace ableſt Memoriall all mens Love,
A fruitfull ofspring on whom the Lord hath Fixt,
Fortuns with virtue and with honor Mint,
Then live theſe Dead above in endles Joyes,
Here in their Seid and Noble Cland'eboyes,
In whom (Graunt ſoe O Heavens) their honor'd Name,
May never die but in the death of Fame.

Prov. 31 Ca. ver. 10 & 30. The price of a virtuous woman is far above pearles.— A woman that feareth the Lord, ſhall be praiſed.

Round the verge of the arch is this paſſage from Daniel, Dan. 12 ch. ver. 3. "They that turn many to rightiouſnes ſhal ſhene as the ſtars for ever and ever." Above this is a fine repreſentation of a curtain parting in the middle, and held aſide by a hand on each corner, as if to ſhow them at their prayers. And over the door, on a marble ſtone, is this inſcription, now ſcarcely legible. "Come Lord Jeſus, Come."

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As the figures point to the time when the tomb was built, ſo the initial

the beſt houſes of the kind till of late, when ſome have been built in the neighbouring pariſhes on a larger ſcale, and in better ſituations. This is a circumſtance that reflects the

tial letters were intended I imagine to repreſent, that it was built by James Lord Viſcount Clandeboyes; for ſo Mr Hamilton's eldeſt ſon is deſigned in an inſcription on the ſchool-houſe, as we ſhall ſhow in its proper place. It is upon the whole a piece of fine workmanſhip, and a tribute to the memory of worthy parents, which muſt have been very expenſive to their pious ſon. But through length of time, and great neglect, it has been much injured; and as there are none who think themſelves immediately concerned to keep it in repair, it will ſoon become ruinous. For none will impute to the preſent age, what was ſaid of the Phariſees, that they "build the tombs of the prophets and garniſh the ſepulchres of the righteous." I am not in poſſeſſion of further information about Mr Hamilton's family, and therefore ſhall only add, that it is not a little for the credit of Dunlop, that beſides thoſe who may be ſaid to belong to it, it has given birth to perſons of ſuch eminence and diſtinction as they certainly were. Mr Hanis Hamilton was great-grandfather to Mr William Carſtairs, Principal of the Univerſity of Edinburgh, and to Mr William Dunlop, Principal of the Univerſity of Glaſgow, and Hiſtoriographer for Scotland. In Crawford's Hiſtory of Renfrewſhire, publiſhed in 1710, Mr Hamilton's eldeſt ſon James is ſtyled Earl of Clanbryſal in the kingdom of Ireland; but whether Hamilton, the preſent Earl of Clanbryſal, be a deſcendent of his, I know not. From that period little is known of the miniſters of this pariſh, till the Revolution, when Mr Gabrial Cuninghame was appointed to the charge. He had been one of the indulged miniſters, was a man of conſiderable abilities, and greatly reſpected by the people. To him ſucceeded Mr Jamieſon, in whom ſimplicity and godly ſincerity were very conſpicuous, and who therefore had, what he was well entitled to, the love and affection of his flock. When dying, he left his two ſons, who were then only boys, to the care of one Anderſon of Craighead, a plain countryman, who undertook the charge, and executed it with great fidelity. The one he bred a merchant, and the other a clergyman, without impairing in the leaſt the little patrimony which was left them. Mr William Jamieſon, the clergyman, was miniſter of Rarick, and author of an Eſſay on Virtue and Happineſs, which may be conſidered as an ingenious attempt to reconcile what is irreconcilable, the different accounts of moral obligation. After Mr Jamieſon was Mr

Rouat.

the higheſt honour on the gentlemen concerned, and promiſes to be of extenſive utility, by exciting others to follow their example. *

Rouat, of whom mention has been made already, and concerning whom there are theſe two ancedotes. The church-officer complaining one day to the ſervant, that Mr Rouat was too much with the Gentles, was replied to, that her maſter had ſcripture for that; for, ſays the apoſtle, "Lo we turn to the Gentles." He was convinced and relieved, and perfectly pleaſed with the gentles. When the ſacrament was to be given for the firſt time by the gentleman who was then miniſter, Miſs Dunlop, afterwards Lady Wallace, came to church rather early, and expreſſed to an old ſervant her ſatisfaction at ſeeing the houſe ſo decently filled. "Madam ſaid the old man, this is nothing to what I have ſeen in Mr Rouat's time. I have heard the boogers cracking at 6 o'clock o' the morni g! The boogers cracking, What do you mean James, ſaid Miſs Dunlop? Yes Madam, continued James, I have ſeen the folk in his time ſitting on the balks of the kirk like bykes o' bees." Theſe ſtories, trifling and ridiculous enough in themſelves, ſhow the ſpirit of the times, and that it was poſſible in thoſe days, at leaſt for the ſame perſon to be a gentleman, a ſcholar and a popular preacher. Mr Rouat was afterwards tranſlated to Jedburgh, where he lived but a ſhort time. His ſon was ſometime Profeſſor of Church Hiſtory in the College of Glaſgow, and died within theſe few years in the poſſeſſion of all that eſteem which was due to the worthy ſon of a worthy father. Mr Baird ſucceeded Mr Rouat as miniſter of Dunlop and was, if inferior to his predeceſſor in popularity, his equal in preſence of mind, prompt expreſſion, and pleaſant manners. He was moreover, like him too, a warm and perſuaſive preacher, a ſincere Chriſtian, and an honeſt man.—Thoſe that follow are ſtill living.

* The ſchool-houſe is of the ſame age with the tomb, and was built by the ſame perſon, as will appear from the following inſcription, above referred to:

1641.

"This ſchool is erected and endowed by James Viſcount Claneboyes in love to his pariſh, in which his Father, Hans Hamilton, was paſtor 45 years, in King James the ſixt his raigne."

I^C^L V.

It is unfortunate for the ſchoolmaſter, and indeed for education in the pariſh, that we know nothing more of that tranſaction, and it would certainly

tainly be generous in thoſe who may have the means of being acquainted with it, to diſcloſe it, that the intentions of the Noble Donor might be anſwered, and the circumſtances of the teacher bettered. For at preſent he derives no other advantage from that endowment than the houſe he lives in; and his place, including every thing belonging to it, does not amount to L. 19 a-year. Why then ſhou'd we complain of the want of learning in our teachers, or be ſurpriſed if their ſucceſſors are not half ſo learned. In moſt country pariſhes the number of ſcholars is very precarious, and the ſchool-wages exceedingly ſmall, as ſmall in many of them as they were 20 years ago; in which caſe, what is to be expected, but that either the teacher is himſelf untaught, or that he is diſpirited in teaching, and in a perpetual ſtruggle for a better place. By which means he neglects his preſent truſt, and offends his preſent employers. It would be wrong indeed to make them independent of their office, but it would be as far wrong to ſtarve them in it. Let them have what is proper to call forth their exertions, and to reward their abilities, and then we ſhall ſee the profeſſion as reſpectable as it is uſeful.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF GRANGE,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF STRATHBOGIE.)

By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS FORBES.

Name, Situation, Extent, Mountains, Rivers, Soil, &c.

THIS parish takes its name from *Grangia*, a middle age term for a farm, or country residence. This name was given to the lands called the Davoch of Grange by the Abbots of Kinloss, who had here a castle, in which they frequently resided, attracted by the beauty of the situation, the castle being built upon the top of a small mount, partly natural, partly artificial, surrounded with a dry ditch, upon the south side of a rising ground, overlooking extensive haughs, then covered with wood, and the small river Isla meandring through them for several miles. The church lies 16 measured miles S. W. from Banff, 12 S. of Portsoy, 10 N. of Huntly, and nearly 4 E. of Keith. The parish

riſh is almoſt ſquare, being, at a medium, 6 miles from N. to S. by 5 miles from E. to W *. The pariſh extends N. from the banks of Iſla, in 3 long but low ridges, terminating in the mountains called the Knockhill, Lurghill, and hill of Altmore, which divide it from the fertile countries of Boyn and Enzie †. The Knockhill is a very high conical hill, upon the N. E. corner of the pariſh. It is detached all round from the reſt of the ridge, and is ſeen at a great diſtance every way, both by ſea and land, as it riſes conſiderably above any of the adjacent hills, and has very

* This pariſh is part of the diſtrict called Stryla, or Strath-iſla; ſo called from the ſmall river Iſla, which runs along the ſouth ſide of it from W. to E.; dividing a farm or two, on the north ſide of the ridge of hills called Ballach, from the reſt of this pariſh; and empties itſelf into the Deveron, about two miles eaſt of the pariſh, after a ſhort courſe of 12 miles, in which it receives a number of rapid mountain-ſtreams, which cauſe it frequently to overflow its banks, and damage the crops upon the haughs; which, for 5 miles of its courſe, in this and the neighbouring pariſh of Keith, are about half a mile broad. In the the years 1768, 1782, 1787, and 1789, the river did incredible damage to the crops upon the haughs. In 1768, the greater part of the crop being cut, but not got in, a flood ſwept the whole away. In 1782, 1787, and 1789 the floods came earlier in the ſeaſon, and blaſted the crop in ſhooting; in 1789, in particular, the haughs were 11 times overflowed, from the time they were ſown, before the crop was got in.

† *Altmore* ſignifies 'The great Burn,' and is the name of a large and rapid ſtream, which takes its riſe in theſe mountains, and running from N. to S. falls into Iſla, dividing the pariſh of Keith from Grange, the whole length of its courſe. Other 3 burns in this pariſh take their riſe in theſe mountains, and running from N. to S. parallel to the burn of Altmore, fall alſo into Iſla; two of them, the burn of Pathnie and the Lime-burn, run between the 3 ridges or diviſions of the pariſh above mentioned; the third, the burn of Millagyn, is the boundary of the pariſh upon the E. ſeparating it from Marnoch and Rotheſnay. Theſe burns, together with Iſla, abound with very fine trout of different kinds: which are the only fiſh found in them, except in autumn, when the ſalmon, with which the Deveron abounds, come up Iſla to depoſit their ſpawn; but no clean ſalmon are ever caught in Iſla. Otters are ſometimes found in Iſla, and in theſe

very much the appearance of a volcano at a diſtance, though it has no ſigns of one when more nearly examined; for it is covered with peat bank over the top, to the depth of 6 or 8 feet at leaſt. The average height of the Knock-hill above the adjacent vallies may be about 400 yards. It is ſaid, that in a clear day, part of 12 counties can be diſtinctly diſcerned from the top of it. There are only other two hills in the pariſh. The hill of Silliearn makes part of the eaſtmoſt of the three ridges, into which the pariſh is divided. It riſes about 100 yards above the reſt of the ridge, extending from N. to S. about two miles, and from E. to W. above a quarter of a mile. The Gallowhill is a ſmall hill of about 200 acres area, making part of the Davoch of Grange, lying N. of the church, upon the ſouth end of the middle ridge or diviſion of the pariſh, and is ſo called, becauſe it was the place of execution for criminals, tried and condemned in the abbot's regality-court; for the Abbots of Kinloſs, as well as the great feudal barons, had an heritable right of judging in all civil and criminal matters in their own domeſtic court, by their bailie of regality, within a certain diſtrict, generally their own eſtates, and from this court there lay no appeal; nay, they could even reclaim a cauſe out of the King's courts, if it belonged to their juriſdiction, and judge it in their own. This right, ſo derogatory to the honour and power of the Crown, and to the adminiſtration of juſtice in the national courts, as well as to the liberty of the ſubject, was aboliſhed after the rebellion in 1745, and a compenſation in money given by Parliament to the heritable proprietors. The low part of the pariſh is in general pretty generally cultivated, except ſome low moſſes, and the cultivation has crept more than half up the ſurrounding hills. The land for a mile N. of the water of Iſla, lying upon the ſide of a riſing ground, ſloping to the ſouth, is a good ſoil, tolerably dry and early, and very

very fertile in good ſeaſons, and when well cultivated; but two-thirds of the cultivated ground in the pariſh to the N. are cold, wet, and late, the ſoil conſiſting chiefly of a poor clay, upon a till bottom, or a ſpungy moſſy ſoil. The air of the pariſh is moiſt, owing not only to the wetneſs of the ſoil, but alſo to the ridge of hills between it and the ſea, which attracts the clouds as they paſs from the Moray Frith, and make them diſcharge their contents in torrents upon Stryla, when there hardly falls a drop on the coaſt ſide. Stryla ſeldom ſuffers by a dry ſeaſon, but always by a wet one.

Antiquities, Heritors.—This pariſh appears to have been anciently covered with wood, and to have been part of a vaſt foreſt, extending from the river Deveron to the Spey, through the pariſhes of Rothemay, Grange, Keith, and Boharm, as appears from the roots and trunks of oaks, alder, birch, and fir, found in great quantities, in the many and extenſive moſſes, ſo frequent in that tract; but at preſent this pariſh is quite deſtitute of wood, except ſome ſolitary trees, ſcattered in a few farmers yards, a copſe of 200 or 300 trees at the houſe of Edingight, and two ſmall patches of firs, which are not thriving. This gives the whole country a bare and naked appearance. It does not appear that the pariſh was early inhabited; there are no traces of Druidical temples in it; although theſe are frequent in the neighbouring pariſhes. The places that have names derived from the Gaelic, (which are not many,) muſt have been firſt inhabited; becauſe that language was univerſal in Scotland till after the Norman Conqueſt of England, when the tyranny of the Conqueror, occaſioned the flight of great numbers of Anglo-Saxons into Scotland, who, obtaining ſettlements in the low country, along the eaſt coaſt of Scotland, introduced their language, which

gradually diffuſed itſelf through all the more civilized an beſt cultivated part of the country; perhaps the clergy a ſo contributed to diffuſe the Engliſh language where the had property or eſtabliſhments. There is reaſon to think that the Scotch dialect of the Engliſh languages has bee the language of the natives of this pariſh for at leaſt 40 years *. The lands of Strath Iſla, (Strath-heyliff, as it i ſpelled in the charter), containing the whole pariſh o Grange, and a great part of the pariſh of Keith, were be ſtowed by William the Lyon upon the abbacy of Kinloſs in the 12th century. The Popiſh clergy very much pro moted the cultivation and improvement of the country where they had eſtabliſhments, and large tracts of land granted to them, formerly not very valuable, nor well cul tivated, which ſoon became, under their poſſeſſion, well cul tivated and well peopled. While the barbarous wars and depredations carried on between neighbouring chieftains often

* The names of places in this pariſh, derived from the Gaelic, are ſaid to be deſcriptive of the local ſituation, or peculiar properties of the places to which they belong; and it is probable, that they have been firſt occupied for the purpoſe of paſturage, rather than for raiſing corn. The principal of them, together with what is ſaid to be their meaning, are as follows: *Edingight*, 'The Place oppoſite to the Wind.' *Fortrie*, 'The cold South-eaſt Hillock.' *Crannach*, 'The Guſhet, or Triangle,' alluding to the ſhape of the ground. *Balamoon*, 'The Moſs town.' *Pathnic*, 'The Cow-Hillock.' *Cantley*, 'The froſty Height.' *Auchinhoove*, 'The Field of Groves,' &c. This laſt ſeems to take its name from one of the fields of battle, with which this pariſh abounds, and which are ſaid to have been fought between the Scots and Danes, when the latter landed at Cullen, in the reign of Donald III. in the end of the ninth century; who, as appears from the ancient Scotch hiſtorians, defeated the Danes near Cullen, and afterwards at Forres in Moray; when, as Guthrie conjectures, the famous obeliſk at Forres was erected. The Danes, in advancing into the heart of the country, muſt neceſſarily paſs through the pariſh of Grange, which is only 4 computed miles diſtant

often deſolated and depopulated their eſtates, the poſſeſſions of the clergy flouriſhed; the oppreſſed often fled to the church for protection, and took refuge under the wings of the clergy, whoſe ſpiritual and temporal power was long very great. Strath Iſla was ſoon well cultivated, and well peopled, under the Abbots of Kinloſs, who had great eſtates, and were very rich and powerful. They frequently lived at their caſtle of Grange, in great ſplendour and hoſpitality, and kept a certain number of monks there, to manage their eſtates, and cultivate their domeſtic farm; they erected mills upon Iſla for grinding corn, and bound their tenants to bring their whole crop to theſe mills; becauſe they here levied the tithe of corn, which, ſince the Reformation, has been exacted under the denomination of that oppreſſive ſervitude called multures, afterward to be taken notice of. Upon the firſt appearance of the Reformation in this kingdom, the then Abbot, whoſe name was Robert Robiſon, foreſeeing the approaching troubles, began,

diſtant from Cullen; and there are ſeveral trenches or encampments, ſuppoſed to be made by the Scots, upon the haughs of Iſla, with the defenſive ſide thrown up towards the coaſt. Two of the fields of battle are clearly to be ſeen, being covered with cairns of ſtones, under which they uſed to bury the ſlain. One of theſe fields is on the N. ſide of the Gallow-hill, not far from the encampments above mentioned; and the other is on the S. ſide of Knockhill, to which there leads a road, from the encampments, over the hill of Silliearn, called to this day, 'The Bowmens Road.' Auchinhove, which lies near the banks of Iſla, has been another field of battle; and in a line with it, towards Cullen, upon the head of the burn of Altmore, ſome pieces of armour were ſaid to have been dug up ſeveral years ago, but were not preſerved; and in the ſame line, towards the coaſt, upon the top of the hill of Altmore, there is a cairn, called The King's Cairn, where probably the Daniſh King or General was ſlain in the purſuit. There are no other antiquities in this pariſh but The Abbot's Caſtle, already mentioned; of which there now remains nothing but a heap of rubbiſh; being entirely deſtroyed for the ſake of the ſtones, which are very ſcarce in this corner, for building houſes.

gan, about the year 1535, to feu out his lands in Stryla, to the tenants that then poſſeſſed them, for ſuch ſums of money as he could obtain, and the payment of a ſmall yearly feu-duty, reſerving to himſelf, however, the tithe of corn paid at the mills. His ſucceſſor, who was the laſt eccleſiaſtical abbot, completed what his predeceſſor had begun, reſerving only the feu-duty; which, upon the diſſolution of the abbacy, came into the poſſeſſion of Edward Bruce, created commendator, or lay abbot of Kinloſs, and paſſed from him to the family of Lethen in Moray, who at preſent draw about L. 42 of feu-duty from this pariſh. Grange, being thus feued out among a great number of ſmall proprietors at the Reformation, continued in that ſituation, except ſome few changes, till towards the end of the laſt century, when Alexander Duff of Braco got poſſeſſion of the greateſt part of theſe ſmall feus. The Davoch of Grange, with the heritable juriſdiction belonging to it, was the laſt property which the abbots had in Stryla; which, after being poſſeſſed ſucceſſively by Abernethy Lord Salton, Lord Ochiltree, and Macpherſon of Cluny, belonged to the family of Gordon for more than a century, till the preſent Duke excambed it with the Earl of Fife, for ſome lands in Moray, in the year 1779. At preſent, the Earl of Fife, the repreſentative of Alexander Duff of Braco, poſſeſſes four fifths of the pariſh; Captain Innes of Edingight, whoſe anceſtors were original feuars from the abbots, poſſeſſes one-ſixth; and the Earl of Findlater the remainder. Edingight is the only reſiding heritor.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls then was 1797. That the population of this pariſh was conſiderably greater a century ago than it is at preſent, and has gradually decreaſed during all that

iod, will appear probable, from the table below, accurately racted from the regiſter of baptiſms and marriages *.

No

In the Year 1684, from 15th March, the Baptiſms are 51 ; and in the

r	Mal.	Fem.	Bapt.	Mar.
85	–	–	80	–
86	torn.	–	–	–
87		–	–	–
88	–	–	46	–
89	–	–	54	–
90	defa-	–	–	–
	ced.	–	–	–
91	–	–	40	–
92	–	–	70	–
93	–	–	57	–
94		–	–	–
95		–	–	12
96		–	–	15
97		–	–	13
98		–	–	9
99		–	–	9
00		–	–	2
v.	Defaced and imperfect.		57 5/6	10
01	17	9	26	14
02	21	18	39	18
03	17	21	38	19
04	24	22	46	15
05	16	24	40	21
06	28	22	50	18
07	30	26	56	–
08	21	21	42	–
09	37	31	68	9
10	29	17	46	12
v.	24	21 1/10	45 1/10	15 6/8
11	31	31	62	14
12	30	36	66	16
13	33	27	60	14
14	36	28	64	20
15	27	26	53	12

Year	Mal.	Fem.	Bapt.	Mar.
1716	28	37	65	16
1717	28	36	64	11
1718	26	20	46	10
1719	37	31	68	14
1720	25	21	46	16
Av.	30 1/10	29 3/10	59 4/10	14 3/10
1721	30	26	56	14
1722	33	17	50	11
1723	23	18	41	19
1724	29	19	48	16
1725	33	25	58	14
1726	25	24	49	14
1727	22	28	50	12
1728	23	14	37	16
1729	29	19	48	9
1730	23	22	45	16
Av.	27	21 2/10	48 2/10	14 1/10
1731	14	20	34	17
1732	24	20	44	15
1733	24	14	38	25
1734	33	17	50	24
1735	22	24	46	21
1736	22	31	53	11
1737	20	18	38	21
1738	28	30	58	15
1739	26	28	54	10
1740	15	17	32	26
Av.	22 8/10	21 9/10	44 7/10	18 5/10
1741	18	23	41	8
1742	20	17	37	19
1743	27	22	49	19
1744	36	28	64	15

Year

No regiſter of deaths or burials was ever kept here till, in 1783, an act of Parliament was paſſed, impoſing a duty upon the regiſtration of baptiſms, marriages, and burials; after which, a regiſter of burials was attempted to be kept, but the tax was ſo odious and unpopular, (being conſidered by the majority of the people as a tax upon their misfortunes), that it could not be collected, but with great difficulty; at the ſame time, that it afforded little information concerning the ſtate of mortality in the pariſh, as a great part

Year	Mal.	Fem.	Bapt.	Mar.	Year	Mal.	Fem.	Bapt.	Mar
1745	24	14	38	10	1770	18	21	39	14
1746	19	18	37	10					
1747	20	18	38	13	Av.	$19\frac{8}{10}$	$18\frac{4}{10}$	$38\frac{2}{10}$	$15\frac{1}{1}$
1748	24	21	45	7					
1749	29	21	50	8	1771	22	15	37	9
1750	21	23	44	11	1772	13	19	32	17
					1773	15	12	27	14
Av.	$23\frac{8}{10}$	$20\frac{5}{10}$	$44\frac{3}{10}$	12	1774	9	23	32	22
					1775	14	9	23	12
1751	22	20	42	7	1776	17	11	28	18
1752	20	27	47	17	1777	12	14	26	16
1753	16	20	36	24	1778	14	12	26	13
1754	33	25	58	15	1779	14	15	29	18
1755	26	14	40	13	1780	12	17	29	28
1756	19	26	45	15					
1757	17	17	34	12	Av.	$14\frac{2}{10}$	$14\frac{7}{10}$	$28\frac{9}{10}$	$16\frac{7}{1}$
1758	25	20	45	7					
1759	21	11	32	20	1781	21	19	40	22
1760	21	18	39	15	1782	17	18	35	10
					1783	16	12	28	11
Av.	22	$19\frac{8}{10}$	$41\frac{8}{10}$	$14\frac{5}{10}$	1784	20	19	39	12
					1785	18	21	39	8
1761	19	24	43	13	1786	26	19	45	11
1762	22	21	43	20	1787	16	12	28	11
1763	21	19	40	14	1788	14	18	32	5
1764	17	15	32	15	1789	13	14	27	10
1765	24	13	37	17	1790	16	13	29	11
1766	25	23	48	19					
1767	14	12	26	12	Av.	$17\frac{7}{10}$	$16\frac{5}{10}$	$34\frac{2}{10}$	$11\frac{1}{10}$
1768	17	17	34	21					
1769	21	19	40	8	1791	11	16	27	11

part of the burials comes from other parishes, and many persons dying in this parish are buried elsewhere; so that from the most attentive observation, for 4 years that the register was kept, it appeared that the burials did not correspond at all with the deaths; for these reasons the register was given up. The register of marriages is rather a register of the contract and publication of banns of every individual in the parish that is contracted, whether they marry or settle in the parish or not; but those females that are contracted to men in other parishes, though their contract be recorded here, do not add to the number of married couples in the parish, for they generally remove from it altogether. This will account, in some measure, for the great disproportion that sometimes appears between the marriages and baptisms in the table; and it is likewise to be observed, that the dissenters register all their contracts, but few or none their baptisms. The baptism-register appears to have been accurately kept, except during the period from 1771 to 1780, during which the church was vacant $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, and the people were frequently obliged to go to neighbouring clergymen to get their children baptized; and not having an immediate opportunity of recording their childrens names, many of them did entirely neglect it. If, therefore, the register had been regularly kept during that period, the average number of baptisms, would probably have been about 36, instead of $28\frac{9}{10}$; certainly it would have been greater than it is. At any rate, the writer of this is sure, that the names of all the children of the members of the Establishment are regularly recorded from the year 1780; and though the Seceders, and other dissenters, do not register the names of their children, there is every reason to believe, that their numbers are not so great now, as that of the Papists and Episcopals were at the beginning of this century, when the first Presbyterian minister was settled here;

here; ſo that the regular decreaſe of the average number of baptiſms in every 10 years, from the beginning of this century, (the firſt 10 years only excepted, which, it is to be obſerved, immediately ſucceeded the 7 years of famine, during K. William III.'s reign), affords a ſtrong preſumption, if not a poſitive proof, of a decreaſing population. That the population has decreaſed very conſiderably ſince the year 1780, is perfectly conſiſtent with the incumbent's knowledge; for that year, the number of ſouls was 1980; in the year 1782, it was 1875; in 1784, only 1760; in 1789, diminiſhed to 1598; and in this year 1791, when an accurate liſt of them was taken up, for the purpoſe of this ſtatement, the number of ſouls is 1572, of which 697 are males, and 875 females; of whom

333 are below 10 years,
312 between 10 and 20,
563 —— 20 and 50,
249 —— 50 and 70,
88 —— 70 and 80,
27 —— 80 and 90.

There are 403 fam. of which

62 conſiſt of	1 perſon,	62
71 —— —	2, -	142
70 —— —	3, -	210
53 —— —	4, -	212
52 —— —	5, -	260
36 —— —	6, -	216
34 —— —	7, -	238
10 —— —	8, -	80
7 —— —	9, -	63
3 —— —	10, -	30
2 —— —	11, -	22
2 conſiſt of	12, -	24
1 —— —	13, -	13
403 families.		Souls 1572

Houſeholders.

Married pairs, -	216
Do. men, whoſe wives do not reſide with them, - -	2
Do. women, whoſe huſbands do not reſide with them, -	6
Single women,	51
Widows, - -	70
Widowers, -	29
Bachelors, -	29
	403

Not

Not houſeholders.	
Married pairs, -	2
Do. women, whoſe huſbands do not reſide with them, -	5
Widows, - -	18
Widowers, - -	7
Male-ſervants, -	112
Female-ſervants,	82
Weavers, - -	26
Shoe and brogue-makers,	21
Tailors, - -	11
Blackſmiths, -	12
Square and cart-wrights,	10
Merchants, -	8
Maſons, -	3
Millers, - -	2
Gardeners, - -	2
Baſket-maker, -	1
Butcher, - -	1
Wheel-wright, -	1
Heckler, - -	1
Cooper, - -	1
Chelſea penſioners,	2
Clergyman of the Eſtabliſhment, -	1
Do. of the Seceſſion,	1
Schoolmaſter, -	1
Students at college,	3
Diſſenters from the Eſtabliſhment, -	163
Papiſts, 5 of whom are below 10 years,	42
Epiſcopals, 7 of whom are below 10 years,	31
Seceders, 25 of whom are below 10 years,	90
Of the above, there have come into the pariſh ſince laſt year, of Papiſts, 3 of whom are below 10, -	10
Epiſcopals, 4 of whom are below 10, -	16

There are 5 houſes that ſell ale or ſpirits; there is one village, a mill-town, called Nether-mills of Stryla, which contains 92 ſouls*.

* The cauſes of the depopulation, that have come to the knowledge of the preſent incumbent, are chiefly the following: 1ſt, The uniting ſeveral poſſeſſions into one farm; which has affected the population for a long time paſt. What was formerly two or more freeholds, each of which not only maintained the frugal and induſtrious proprietors, with their families, but alſo ſeveral cottagers, who had likewiſe numerous families, are now frequently united into one farm, on which there are few or

Agriculture, &c.—Agriculture is in a worſe ſtate at preſent in this pariſh than it was 10 years ago. Before the year 1782, the improvements in farming, introduced by the

no ſubtenants. The lime-trade, which, for centuries back, has been the principal employment of all the inhabitants, was incompatible with large farms. The largeſt farm formerly did not exceed 15 or 20 bolls ſowing; and every farm was ſkirted with a number of ſubtenants, who were bound to aſſiſt their maſters, in ſpring and harveſt, with their ſervices, which was generally the greater part of the rent they paid for their poſſeſſions; and they were allowed to keep as many cattle and ſheep upon the common paſture as they pleaſed; and each diſtrict of the pariſh had a large tract of paſture in common. Whenever the ſeed time was over, all hands were employed till harveſt, and even after harveſt was over, in providing fuel, and in burning and driving lime; and before lime was brought by ſea from England, and the frith of Forth, Stryla ſupplied almoſt all Aberdeenſhire, Banffſhire, and Moray, with lime; for which they received, as long ago as can be remembered by the oldeſt people, nearly the ſame price as they do now. They had alſo a kind of ſhort flax, which is now entirely baniſhed out of the country, but of which they formerly raiſed great quantities; the drying, breaking, ſcutching, beating, heckling, ſpinning, weaving, and bleaching of which, not only afforded employment to men and women, at certain times of the year, when they could not work at the lime-trade; but brought in a great deal of money in thoſe days, and Keith market was formerly reſorted to from all parts of Scotland for purchaſing linen-cloth. This, together with the low rents which they paid, the cheapneſs of victual, for which there was no market but among themſelves, and the numbers of black cattle and ſheep which the then extenſive paſtures enabled them to keep, (many of which they fattened and killed for their own uſe, becauſe there was no demand for them at that time from the ſouth country or from England), enabled them to live comfortably, and bring up numerous families; and young people were not deterred from entering early in life into the married ſtate from fears of want. A very ſmall ſtock was ſufficient to begin the world, and that ſtock was eaſily acquired. But when ſhipping and trade became more common upon the coaſt, and the exportation of corn commenced at Portſoy, then the farmers thought they could make more profit by the ſale of corn, than by the lime-trade, or by ſubtenants; they therefore enlarged their farms, by removing their ſubtenants. The heritors alſo extended the corn-land, by dividing the commons, and ſetting off

the late patriotic Lord Findlater into his adjoining eſtates upon the coaſt ſide, had crept gradually into this pariſh. Carts

off portions of them to the poor peeople to cultivate. Theſe were bad ſubjects for bearing corn, being naturally of a poor, wet, ſour, ſtony, or moſſy ſoil; and when once the ſward of them was broke, they ſoon ceaſed to be good either for graſs or corn, and improvers were unable to cure the natural barenneſs of the ſoil with plenty of rich manure. The loſs of the paſture was an irreparable loſs to the farmers, the immenſe numbers of ſheep and black cattle, which were formerly kept upon the hills to which there was eaſy acceſs, on the paſtures, and on the green moſſes, now almoſt wholly caſt up for turff, or ploughed and burnt for corn, produced a great deal of manure, which raiſed plenty both of graſs and corn; but the paſture being curbed and deſtroyed by the new improvements, the cattle and ſheep dwindled away, and the fields of conſequence did not produce as formerly. The farms were neceſſarily enlarged; this increaſed the number of candidates for farms, and conſequently raiſed the rents, by ſuggeſting the plan to heritors, which they have too ſteadily adhered to, of ſetting up farms to roup. The high prices given for cattle within theſe 30 years, alſo tended greatly to advance the rents, and to diminiſh the number of ſubtenants, whoſe poſſeſſions were now become neceſſary for paſture. The new improvements ſoon became unfit, for the reaſons already aſſigned, to maintain the improvers and their families, even with all the advantages of moſs and lime; this occaſioned the uniting ſeveral improvements into one poſſeſſion. All theſe changes, tended to leſſen the population. 2*d*, The decay of the lime-trade. Many places that were formerly ſupplied with lime from Stryla, can now be ſupplied with Engliſh ſhells, cheaper than it can be manufactured here with peat, (always a precarious fuel, and obtained at much expenſe of time and labour), and carried to a great diſtance, not leſs than 8 or 10 computed miles; whereas formerly people came from a great diſtance, and bought it at the kilns and carried it themſelves. 3*d*, Emigrations, principally to the ſouth country, occaſioned partly by the riſe of wages, and the demand for hands, for the purpoſes both of agriculture and manufactures there; but chiefly by the impolitic ſeverity of the landholders, afterward to be taken notice of 4*th*, and laſtly, A great mortality has prevailed in this pariſh for ſeveral years paſt. The pariſh was always eſteemed healthy, till within the laſt 10 years notwithſtanding the moiſture of the climate; but the moiſture cannot ſtagnate, as it is expoſed to very high winds from almoſt every quarter. As a proof of its healthineſs, there

Carts for carrying dung, lime, and grain, were univerſally adopted in place of creels, currocks and ſacks on horſes backs. The levelling and ſtraighting of ridges, and cultivating of green crops, ſuch as turnip, potato, and ſown graſs in ſmall quantities, were becoming pretty common among the moſt conſiderable farmers, and were rapidly gaining ground, when the ſcarcity in 1783 put a ſtop to all improvement by green crops, and made the farmers think of nothing but raiſing grain; and the more ſo, as in theſe wet and late ſeaſons, the beſt cultivated lands often produced the worſt crops, becauſe they continued to grow till the froſts

there were about 200 of the inhabitants alive, upwards of 70 years of age, in the year 1780. Before that time conſumptions were not near ſo frequent as they have been ſince. This may be juſtly attributed, in a great meaſure, to the effects of the ſcarcity, and bad victual, in the year 1783; to the long and inclement harveſts in 1782 and 1787; in both which ſeaſons, the labourers were expoſed to much cold and wet, during three months that each of theſe harveſts continued; but principally to the change that has of late years taken place, in the manner of living among the lower ranks. Formerly every houſeholder could command a draught of ſmall-beer, and killed a ſheep now and then out of his own little flock; but now the caſe is very different; few of the poorer ſort of houſeholders can keep any ſheep, for the reaſons already aſſigned, or even afford a little beer, or a bit of meat, upon the Chriſtmas holidays. Among the poor, the want of nouriſhing diet, nay, the frequent want even of the very neceſſaries of life, which their induſtry is often not ſufficient to procure for them, to which may be added, their wretched damp uncomfortable houſes, to which they enter through the dunghill, the putrid effluvia of which they breath continually; and among the middling ranks, dejection of mind, conſequent upon a change of circumſtances from affluence and independence to ſtrugling with debt and want, appear to be the principal cauſes of the prevailing diſtempers, and mortality in this pariſh. Young people are in general cut off by conſumptions, and thoſe more advanced in life by low nervous fevers and dropſies. There are no diſorders that ſeem to belong peculiarly to the climate, unleſs that old people are generally diſtreſſed with rheumatiſms. Of late, neitherthe ſmall-pox nor any inflammatory diſorder has been very prevalent or mortal. The complaints are principally nervous.

froſts came upon them before they were properly filled. The tenants in this pariſh were in general at that period in very good circumſtances, the greater part of them having from L. 50 to L. 150 or upwards out at intereſt, beſides the ſtocking of their farms; but the whole rent of the pariſh was more than doubled a few years before; and in 1783, not only between L. 3000 and L. 4000 Sterling, ſuppoſed to be brought into the pariſh, one year with another, for grain and lime, was wanting, but nearly as much was given out for victual and ſeed. This, together with a ſucceſſion of bad ſeaſons and crops, and the advance of ſervants wages, greatly reduced the tenants, and brought many of them in arrears, upon which they were ſummoned out of their poſſeſſions. This broke their ſpirit for induſtry and exertion, as they then laboured only for, and held their all at the diſcretion of the landholders, who from time to time ſeized and confiſcated their whole effects for payment of their arrears, and left the poor families no reſource, but to go to ſervice, to begging, or to emigrate to the ſouth country, or elſewhere, in queſt of employment; and even ſome of thoſe tenants that were able to weather the ſtorm, are only now receiving new leaſes for 8 or 9 years, including two or three of their former leaſes not expired. But in general new leaſes are never granted till the former be entirely expired, which always expoſes the farm to be overcropped, as nothing but its being quite worn out will give the poſſeſſing tenant a chance to renew upon reaſonable terms, and that only for 19 years at fartheſt, without any encouragement to incloſe, or build good houſes; and no reſpect is paid to the beſt cultivator, nor even to the tenants in beſt circumſtances; he that will promiſe moſt rent is always preferred. Conſidering theſe circumſtances, and the heavy oppreſſive multures and mill-ſervices to which they are ſubjected, amounting to between

between an eighth and ninth part of the whole crop, it is a wonder that the ſtate of agriculture is even ſo good as it is.—The ſurface of the pariſh may be eſtimated to contain about 16,000 acres; little more than 4000 of which are under tillage; and only 2567 are in crop this year; 1873 in oats; 538 in barley; 76 in peaſe; 60 in turnip and potato; about 20 in flax; and between 80 and 90 in ſown graſs. There are 167 ploughs yoked; of which 42 conſiſt of 8 or 10 oxen each. There are only 3 or 4 two-horſe ploughs, that go without a driver, and 1 two-oxen ploughs. This is a great ſaving; and it is aſtoniſhing, that 2 horſes, or 2 oxen in a plough, are not more generally adopted, conſidering the great ſcarcity and high wages of ſervants. The reſt of the ploughs conſiſt of 4 or more horſes each, or cattle and horſes yoked together, as thoſe who have ſmall poſſeſſions can afford. Almoſt all the farmers, who yoke oxen ploughs, yoke one or more horſe ploughs. The plough almoſt univerſally uſed is the plough with curved mould-board. There are upwards of 400 carts of one kind or other; of theſe only 12 are two-horſe draughts, and 6 are oxen wains.

There are in this pariſh 388 oxen, 521 cows, 944 young cattle, 452 horſes, and 2582 ſheep, moſtly of the black faced kind, which, by a moſt unaccountable predilection for ſize, (the only property of this breed,) has very generally baniſhed from the North of Scotland, the ſmall white faced native breed, which produced a very fine wool, and fine flavoured mutton. Some farmers are improving their breed, by croſſing with Engliſh rams. The black cattle are all of the Scotch breed, and generally of a ſmall ſize, being worked too young, which ſtints their growth, and they are frequently ſold off to the dealers before they arrive at their full ſize. The average price of oxen may be ſtated

at L. 5, 5 s. Sterling; of cows, about L. 4 Sterling; of young cattle, about L. 2 Sterling each. The prices of horſes are from L. 3 to L. 30, but the average price of the ordinary ſize of work horſes may be about L. 8 Sterling, and the average prices of ſheep about 6s. Sterling each. There are 40 farmers in the pariſh, that pay from L. 15 to L. 50 rent; and one farmer pays L. 250 a-year. The pariſh produces much more grain than is neceſſary to maintain the inhabitants, unleſs in very bad ſeaſons. The land yields very differently in different places, but, at an average, it may be eſtimated to yield about five returns, including ſeed. The rent is as various as the ſoil; being from 2s. 6d. to L. 1, 1 s. Sterling the acre; at an average, it lets at about 10 s. Sterling the acre groſs rent. The whole rent of the pariſh, including mill-multures, may be about L. 2000 Sterling a-year *. There are none of the farms in the pariſh incloſed, except the farm of Knock, poſſeſſed by Lord Fife's factor, which is incloſed with ſtones, with which that corner of the pariſh is well ſupplied; and the Mains of Edingight, which is incloſed with ſtone fence and ditch. Hedges and ditches are, indeed, the only practicable mode of incloſing the greater part of the pariſh, as there are few or no ſtones to be had, except limeſtone quarried at a conſiderable expenſe, and which can hardly be obtained of any ſize fit for building. But hedges and ditches are much more proper for incloſing the greater part of this pariſh than ſtone fences; as the ditches would tend to drain the wet ſoil, and hedges to ſhelter a bleak and open

* Peaſe and oats are generally ſown in March and April, and barley ſometimes in the end of April, and till the end of May, and beginning of June. Turnips are ſown from the middle of June to the middle of July. Hay is cut in the month of July. Harveſt generally begins about the middle of September, though in early ſeaſons it uſed ſometimes to be finiſhed by that time; but it is more frequently ended in November; and in 1782 and 1787, it was not all got in till the end of December.

open country; but the heritors give no encouragement for incloſing of any kind *.

Manufactures.

* Wages of all kinds have advanced greatly within the laſt 40 years. Here follows a comparative ſtatement of the wages then and now.

The beſt ploughmans wages in the year 1750 were yearly,		L.	1	13	4	in 1791,	L.	6	0 0
The ſecond beſt ditto.	in 1750		1	6	8			5	0 0
A man in harveſt,	in do.		0	12	0			1	10 0
A woman ſervant,	in do.		0	16	0			2	2 0
Ditto in harveſt,	in do.		0	6	0			1	0 0
A common labourer for ordinary work, the day,	in do.		0	0	3			0	0 6
Ditto, caſting peat, cutting hay, or in harveſt,	in do.		0	0	5			0	0 10
Women when employed in the moſs, or in harveſt,	in do.		0	0	3			0	0 6
Ditto, at hay making, or lint pulling,	in do.		0	0	3			0	0 4
A maſon's wages,	in do.		0	0	6			0	0 10
A wright's wages,	in do.		0	0	4			0	0 8
A tailor's wages,	in do.		0	0	2			0	0 6

With the above wages they receive their victuals from their employers. Here follows alſo, a comparative ſtatement of the prices of proviſions for the ſame years.

A boll of barley in 1750, ſold at	L.	0	10	0	in 1791,	L.	0	16	0
A boll of oats,		0	6	0			0	10	6
A boll of oat-meal, at 9 ſtone, (157½ lb. aver.)		0	8	4			0	15	0
1 lb. of butter, (24 oz. aver.)		0	0	4	from	5 d.	to	9 d.	
1 lb of cheeſe, ditto, formerly ſold by the piece					from	2½ d.	to	4 d.	
A gooſe,		0	1	6	from	2 s.	to	2 s. 6 d.	
A duck,		0	0	3	from	5 d.	to	7 d.	
A hen,		0	0	3	from	5 d.	to	7 d.	
A chicken for the brander,		0	0	1	from	2 d.	to	3 d.	
A dozen of eggs,		0	0	1		2 d.			
Beef the pound, (formerly ſold by the leg,		0	0	1	from	2½ d.	to	4 d.	
Mutton, (formerly ſold by the leg,		0	0	1	from	2 d.	to	3 d.	
Pork, (formerly ſold by the leg,		0	0	1	from	2 d.	to	3 d.	
A pair of brogues to a man,		0	0	10			3 s.	4 d.	
A pair ditto, to a woman,		0	0	7			2 s.	6 d.	

Manufactures.—The only manufactures in the parish are lime, and linen yarn. There are inexhaustible quarries of the very finest limestone in almost every part of the parish, and nature had amply provided the means of manufacturing it, in the extensive mosses, with which a great part of the parish was formerly covered, and which are not by any means exhausted by the consumption of many centuries; though they are become more distant and inaccessible than they were, and will now wear out much faster, as the surface of them is generally dug up for turf, which puts an end to their growing. The quantity of lime burnt in this parish, about 40 years ago, was estimated at 60,000 bolls, of 64 Scotch pints to the boll, which was sold, at an average, at 6 d. the boll. The quantity at present manufactured, may be estimated, at between 20,000 and 30,000 bolls, which sells, after being carried from 6 to 10 computed miles, at an average, at 8 d. the boll. The heritors lay restraints upon the making of lime, both because it exhausts the mosses, and draws off the attention of the people from their farms. Indeed they seldom lay any of it on their own possessions, from an ill founded prejudice, that it would not be useful, but hurtful, to ground that stands on limestone, though frequent experiments, made by different farmers in the parish, prove that it is capable, when judiciously managed, of producing remarkable crops. The spinning of linen yarn, and making of coarse linen from Scotch flax, was long practised, (as already observed,) before the manufacturers began to import Dutch flax, and gave it out to spin, which they have done for many years. Since that time, there is but a small proportion of the Scotch flax spun for the market; as the quality of the flax is not so soft and fine as the Dutch flax, owing perhaps both to the nature of the soil, and to the management of the flax. There is, however, a good deal of it made into coarse li-

nens, both for home conſumption, and likewiſe for ſale, and ſome of it is ſold in yarn; but the manufacturers complain, that the ſpinners draw it beyond the griſt, that they may have the more out of their flax, which hurts the ſale of the yarn at the market. But the ſpinning of yarn from Dutch flax is the principal employment of the women, and is computed to bring in about L. 1500 Sterling annually.

Roads and Bridges.—There are 24 meaſured miles of roads within this pariſh, made and repaired by ſtatute-labour.

	Miles.
The road from Banff to Keith, - -	7
The road from Cullen and Portſoy to Keith, -	4
The road from Aberdeen, Huntly and Rothemay, through Grange, by Newmill, to Fochabers, &c. -	4
The private road from Rothemay to Edingight, by Knock, - - - - -	3
The private road from Braco-houſe to Knock, -	4
The private road from Berryhillock to the houſe of Edingight, - - - - -	2

On the road from Aberdeen, Huntly and Rothemay, through Grange, there are 4 good bridges over the 4 ſtreams that interſect the pariſh; two of theſe bridges were built laſt year, out of the vacant ſtipends of the neighbouring pariſh of Rothemay, and are of great importance to the whole country, as they are upon a well frequented road, and acroſs two very rapid and dangerous ſtreams. There is alſo a bridge over Iſla, near the church, which "was built in 1699, by Alexander Chriſtie, tenant in "Cantley, for the glory of God, and the good of the "people of Grange," as the inſcription bore, being built to render the church acceſſible to the people of Cantley, which is the farm upon the ſouth ſide of Iſla. 100 merks Scots

Scots were lodged in the hands of Edingight, by the ſaid Alexander Chriſtie, to be laid out by the direction of the kirk-ſeſſion, for repairing and upholding ſaid bridge; which appears from the records to have been all expended before the year 1740. As the bridge was too narrow to allow carts to paſs, being intended originally for foot-paſſengers only, and as it was then the only bridge upon Iſla below Keith, Sir William Forbes, the patron of the pariſh, gave a year and half's vacant ſtipend for repairing and enlarging it, which was done in the year 1783, in a very ſuperficial manner, ſo that the new part of it threatens ſoon to go to ruin: And indeed the bridge is not even ſo publicly uſeful as could be wiſhed, as it is not on any of the public roads. The old bridge, which was fit for anſwering every neceſſary purpoſe in the place where it was, could have been repaired at a very ſmall expenſe, ſo as to have ſtood for many years, by a pariſh contribution: it is to be regretted, therefore, that the vacant ſtipend was not made part of a fund for the purpoſe of building a new bridge over Iſla, in that part of the pariſh where the roads from Banff, Cullen, Portſoy, Keith, &c. all meet, and croſs Iſla at the ſame place. The roads are in wretched repair, the ſtatute-labour being employed upon them principally in autumn, when the day is ſhort, and the earth ſoaked with the autumnal rains. The difficult paſſes are rendered ſtill worſe, by having the looſe wet clay thrown into them; for proper materials are never ſought for, nor brought from a diſtance when they are not at hand, but the mire from the ditches is thrown into the middle of the road, ſo that a piece of new made or mended road is generally impaſſable. Add to this, that the ſtatute-labour (which is a moſt unequal and oppreſſive tax upon the poor, in the way in which it is at preſent levied) is performed with the greateſt reluctance. A poor labourer, who has neither horſe nor cart, and perhaps

haps little or no crop, and whoſe labour cannot maintain a numerous family of young children, who therefore muſt be ſupplied from the poors funds, is obliged to work on the roads ſix days in the year, while a farmer who pays L. 40 or L. 50 rent, works 4 carts, and needs only one ſervant and himſelf, except boys for herding, is liable only for twice as much as the poor labourer; and ſervants are entirely exempted from this heavy tax, though they are much better able to bear it than many houſeholders *.

Church, Stipend, School, Poor.—This pariſh, in times of Popery, belonged to the pariſh of Keith, and was erected into a ſeparate pariſh in the year 1618, (Preſbytery records). The preſent church was originally a chapel of eaſe, built by the abbot, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is now in a ruinous condition, and never was fit to contain the congregation. The manſe, which was built about 40 years ago, was repaired in 1778 and in 1787, and is ſtill a bad houſe. The offices are tolerably good, but

* The ſtatute labour ought therefore to be converted into money by act of Parliament, and exacted in different proportions, according to the circumſtances of the perſons; for inſtance, a poor houſeholder, that has little or no crop, ought not to be aſſeſſed above 1 s. a year; a ſervant that has no family ought to be aſſeſſed 1 s. 6 d.; tenants ought to pay according to their rent, or the number and kind of carts they employ; and heritors (who are at preſent entirely exempted, and whoſe rent riſes in proportion to the eaſy communication by good roads) ought to be taxed in proportion to their rent: If ſuch a ſcheme was adopted, and the roads contracted for, they would ſoon be made, ſo as to ſave 50 *per cent.* of the expenſe of tranſporting commodities, and alſo of the tear and wear of carriages and harneſs: And after the roads were once effectually made or repaired, the tax could be reduced conſiderably, and yet the roads be kept in excellent repair. The act ought alſo to contain a clauſe, appointing a committee, of equal numbers of the moſt reſpectable tenants, as well as landholders, in each diſtrict, to carry the act into execution, that there might be no improper exemption.

but only thatched with heath, which is a bad roof. The ſtipend is 1000 merks Scots in money, and 25½ bolls of meal, at 8 ſtone, including L. 4, 4 s. for communion-elements; and a glebe of 5 acres, of tolerably good ſoil. Sir William Forbes of Cragievar, Bart. is patron. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 12 bolls of meal, collected in lippies and pecks, from every houſeholder in the pariſh that poſſeſſes any land, in proportion to what they poſſeſs; 10 merks Scots of a mortification; L. 2 Sterling as precentor and ſeſſion clerk; 2 s. for every proclamation of banns; and 4 d. for the regiſtration of every baptiſm; about 30 ſcholars, at an average, attend the ſchool; from whom he receives 1 s. 3 d. the quarter for reading Engliſh; 1 s. 6 d. for reading and writing; and 2 s. for arithmetic and Latin; which altogether may amount to about L. 18 Sterling yearly. The number of ſcholars might be many more; but the ſchool-houſe is ſmall, and at a corner of the pariſh; the ſchoolmaſters are frequently changed, owing to the poor encouragement; and the people are, from habit, backward in ſending their children to ſchool; they allege, that by the time their children begin to make any progreſs with a ſchoolmaſter, he is about to remove to a better place or buſineſs. The ſchool is not acceſſible in winter to above one third of the pariſh; the miniſter, therefore, with concurrence of the heritors, made application to the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, in the year 1782, and got a ſchoolmaſter appointed to the moſt diſtant parts of the pariſh, upon condition, that the heritors would pay L. 4 yearly of his ſalary, and give him a houſe, garden, fuel, and a cow's graſs *gratis*; which they would not agree to do, and the ſchoolmaſter was removed; the conſequence of which muſt be, that the riſing generation will be bred up in ignorance. If the ſalaries of parochial ſchoolmaſters are not made ſomething better worth

worth the while of a man of liberal education, that moſt uſeful inſtitution will ſoon be abandoned altogether, (as it would have been already, in many places, were it not a kind of interim employment to poor young lads, while at college, and during the time they are ſtudying divinity,) and then the country people will return to ignorance and barbariſm: but the preſent faſhionable paradox is, that *ignorance* is the mother of *induſtry;* which is equally well founded with the ancient aphoriſm, that *ignorance* is the mother of *devotion.* As ignorance is the nurſe of ſuperſtition, ſo is it peculiarly favourable to a ſtate of ſlavery; and the ſavage ſtate, which is a ſtate of ignorance, is a ſtate of *indolence*, not of *induſtry*.—The poor are ſupported by the weekly collections, fines from delinquents, hire of two mortcloths, and hand-bell at funerals, rent of the church yard, rent of the ſeats of a gallery in the church, with the intereſt of L. 240, previous to the year 1783. In the year 1782, the crop in this pariſh was ſo wretched, that if it had been all made into meal, it would not have maintained the inhabitants for two months; and the victual was ſo bad, that its effects, together with the ſcarcity, proved fatal to the conſtitutions and lives of many, (as already obſerved); however, the inhabitants were ſupported, one way or other, with what they had remaining of the former crop, and what they could purchaſe at L. 1, 4 s. Sterling the boll, of 9 ſtone, (157½ lb Averdupoiſe,) from the neighbouring countries of Enzie and Moray, (where the crop was much leſs affected by the bad ſeaſon,) till they were relieved, by the importation of white peaſe, and other grain, in April and May. The ſeſſion imported 200 quarters of white peaſe, with their funds, together with L. 100 Sterling, lent to the ſeſſion, free of intereſt for nine months, to purchaſe grain for the benefit of the poor, by a manufacturer in the pariſh, who, by uncommon induſtry,

attention

attention and integrity, had, without any original ſtock, in a few years, acquired ſome hundred pounds, and who, beſides the above generous and benevolent exertion in behalf of the poor, imported great quantities of all kinds of grain, flour, biſcuit, &c. which he ſold out at little or no profit. Lord Fife alſo bought excellent barley at the London market, and oats for ſeed; but as they were ſold out for ready money, many of the poor tenants, who were under the neceſſity of employing all their ready money for purchaſing victual for their families, were obliged to ſow their own ſeed, which did not grow; and even the oats, they bought from the coaſt ſide for ſeed, at L. 1, 1 s. and upwards the boll, though it looked beautiful, and was well filled, did not grow, but rotted in the ground; and indeed, in this country, the worſt filled corn, and the corn that was laſt cut in harveſt 1782, was the only corn that did vegetate tolerably next year. This ruined the next crop, which, had the ſeed been good, would have been a plentiful one, as the ſummer and harveſt 1783 were the beſt that have been ſince; this made the ſcarcity and dearth continue in this country, till crop 1784 relieved it. The ſeſſion made the peaſe they bought into meal, and ſold it out at or below prime coſt to poor families, and great numbers were ſupplied *gratis*, beſides thoſe upon the roll, whoſe numbers were alſo greatly increaſed; ſo that when the heritors and ſeſſion met upon the 1ſt of July 1783, to report to the Barons of Exchequer the ſtate of the pariſh, in order to enable them to judge what proportion of the victual bought by them, with the L. 10,000 granted by Parliament for the relief of the poor, in the northern counties of Scotland, they reported, "That the number upon the poors roll amounted to 200, and that L. 50 Sterling is already expended in a partial relief to thoſe in greateſt diſtreſs; that upwards of 1200 have been

ſupported,

supported by imported grain from the end of February; and that more than 800 souls will stand in need of assistance from the poors funds, (supposing they were sufficient for that purpose), before they can be supplied from the crop upon the ground, which cannot be expected sooner than three months hence." Upon this report, the Barons of Exchequer, sent in all, 79 bolls of meal, at different times, to be distributed *gratis*, and 102½ bolls, to be sold at 8 s. 8 d. the boll. This was a great relief. Lord Fife also sold out the meal in his girnel, and what multure farm came in, at 16 s. Sterling the boll; and he deducted a fifth part of the tenants money-rent for 1783, upon condition, that they paid up the remainder, together with the arrears of the former rent, and the price of their deficient farm or victual rent, by the 1st of February 1784; but many of them were rendered unable to take the benefit of his Lordship's liberality *.

Advantages.

* Here follows a statement of the amount, and disposal of the poors funds, for three different periods, *viz.* for 4 years preceding 1783; during 1783 and 1784; and for 4 years immediately preceding the date of this report.

1st Period.

Average annual collections, fines, interest, legacies, loft-rents &c. from 1st December 1778 to 1st December 1782, - - - -	L. 31 19 4
Average annual distributions to the poor, for the above period, including about L. 5, 5 s. Sterling annually to the infirmary at Aberdeen, and for paying session-clerk and kirk officer's (beadle) fees, - -	L. 25 10 8⅓
Average number of the poor upon the roll for said period, 31.	

2d Period.

Collections, &c. during 1783 and 1784, - -	L. 47 19 0
Distributed in money in 1783 and 1784, including L. 10, 4 s. to the infirmary at Aberdeen, and to pay session-clerk, and kirk officer's fees. - - -	L. 48 2 2
Distributed to the poor upon the roll, in meal, during these two years, 125 bolls 2 firlots 1 peck, at 16 s. the boll,	L. 100 9 0

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages that this pariſh poſſeſſes are, that it is not far from a ſea-port, where

3d Period.

Average annual collections, &c. from 1ſt December 1787 to 1ſt December 1791, - - - L. 35 16 9

Average annual diſtributions to the poor for ſaid period, including about L. 5. 5 s annually to the infirmary at Aberdeen, and to pay ſeſſion-clerk and kirk officer's fees, - - - - L. 33 6 0

Average number of the poor upon the roll in ſaid period, 35.

Beſides the above mentioned ſources of relief to the poor, there is a great deal given in private charity, not to travelling beggars only but the people in general are uncommonly humane and benevolent; and when any poor perſon or family is afflicted with ſickneſs, or any other unexpected calamity, the neighbours do not wait to be ſolicited but carry meal, or whatever elſe the ſituation requires, or their circumſtances can afford, and they watch with the ſick, &c. Many of the poor alſo have bags in the mills, into which every one puts as he can ſpare, or as charity diſpoſes him. And on the Chriſtmas holidays, the young men go out in parties through the pariſh a-begging for the greateſt objects; and ſeveral bolls of meal, and ſome pounds Sterling of money, are collected every year, and committed to the care of the members of ſeſſion, for behoof of thoſe for whom it is collected. This practice has an excellent effect upon the morals, both of young and old; it diſpoſes the old to acts of liberality, and draws forth their ſympathy towards the diſtreſſed, and it trains up the young to acts of benevolence and charity. This practice is alſo a great ſupport to the funds, which are beginning again to recover, from their dilapidation in 1783 and 1784. The heritors alſo, being convinced by experience of the importance of having a fund in reſerve againſt a time of ſcarcity, reſolved to take the poors money and pay 5 *per cent.* yearly for it; (whereas before 1783 it was lent out at 4 *per cent.* a year, payable only once in two years.) By this means, together with ſome legacies, and ſtrict œconomy, the funds are again accumulated to L. 200 at intereſt. The ſeſſion takes a diſpoſition to the effects of thoſe that are taken upon the roll, (unleſs in ſuch years as 1783 and 1784), with the burden of taking care of them in ſickneſs and in their laſt illneſs, and of defraying their funeral charges, which must not exceed L. 1 Sterling; allowing the relations of the deceaſed to redeem the effects, by repaying to the ſeſſion a year's contribution, immediately preceding the death of the pauper, and defraying the funeral charges.

where there is generally a market for grain, victual, &c. when it is plenty; and in the neighbourhood of the fertile countries of Boyn, Enzie and Moray, from whence, and by importation, a ſupply can be obtained in wet and late ſeaſons, when the crop fails in Stryla; and that it poſſeſſes the means of improvement by lime, ſo near, and in ſuch plenty. But the diſadvantages are many; a cold, wet, and late ſoil and climate, and conſequently uncertain crops; ſhort leaſes; no encouragement to tenants to improve their land, to incloſe or build good houſes; heavy and oppreſſive mill-multures, which take between an eighth and a ninth of all that the tenant carries to the mill, and even of what he buys, in times of ſcarcity, if it be manufactured within the ſucken. The tenant alſo is obliged to pay 10 d. for every boll of oats carried to the ſhore, and ſold ſometimes as low as 7 s. and never above 12 s. the boll, and every farm pays a certain number of bolls of barley, for what barley is ſold, and for keeping in the mill water; notwithſtanding which, the tenants are compelled to perſonal ſervice, for keeping in the mill-water, and to perform other mill-ſervices, ſuch as bringing home millſtones, and upholding the mill, if required ſo to do; and to carry the mill farm-meal to Macduff, 17 miles diſtant, which they are generally called to do in the ſpring ſeaſon. This ſervitude amounts almoſt to a prohibition to improve, as it is at leaſt a tax of 12 *per cent.* upon the produce of improvements; beſides, the tenants are liable to be called to give an account upon oath, before the baron-bailie, what they have bought or ſold for three years back; and if a man's memory, who cannot keep accounts, has failed him, and he conſcientiouſly refuſes to take an oath, he is charged arbitrarily. Such a mode of proceeding is ſurely contrary to the eſſential principles of juſtice, and very hurtful to morals, as frequent oaths, (eſpecially where the intereſt

of

of the perſon taking the oath may be materially affected thereby), muſt often be *. Bad roads is another diſadvantage, and the unequal and oppreſſive tax of ſtatute-labour, totally inadequate to the making or upholding ſuch an extent of road; beſides that it is often miſemployed, at the will of the commiſſioners or directors of the diſtrict, on private roads, while public ones are neglected.—The tax upon coals alſo is a great grievance. A great and precious part of the year, both to the farmer and limer, muſt be employed in providing and driving fuel; whereas, were it not for the heavy tax upon coal, the farmer would gain two months of the ſummer, which could be employed in cultivating turnip, managing hay, working fallow, or preparing manure; and, at the ſame time, be better ſerved with fuel, by bringing coal from the ſhore, when he carried his grain thither; and the limers would find it their intereſt alſo, to burn their lime partly with coal, rather than with peat alone; becauſe, inſtead of driving it ſome miles farther to get a penny more for the boll, that they may make as much as poſſible of their fuel, they could burn more, and ſell cheaper; and when they went to the ſhore for coal, they could always carry a draught of lime with them. Some years ago, a very wet ſeaſon compelled ſome of them to try coal, and they found a mixture of peat and coal anſwer ſo well, that they continue to uſe a little coal now and then.—The people alſo complain much of the unequal and oppreſſive nature of the exciſe and diſtillery laws. The laſt partakes ſo much of the nature of a monopoly, that the diſtillers, unleſs in a time of ſcarcity, when the grain is wanted for meal, combine and keep the price

* Since writing the above, the multures in this pariſh have been converted by the baron-bailie at 2 s. 3 d. upon the pound groſs rent; beſides paying the miller largely for work and mill ſervices as before.

price of barley low; and conſequently the ſpirits, which are generally of a bad quality, are ſold at a low price, which has a tendency to deſtroy both the conſtitutions and the morals of the people, for punch and dram-drinking are now too generally ſubſtituted in the public houſes in place of beer, which was a much more wholeſome beverage; and the heavy exciſe on malt, which is alſo rigorouſly enforced by the diſtillers for obvious reaſons, tends to produce the ſame effect, and alſo to prevent poor people from having malt or beer in their own houſes, the want of which proves very hurtful to the health and conſtitutions of the labouring poor; and when a poor man has a boll of barley to diſpoſe of, he can hardly ſell it at all, or only at a very low price, generally what the diſtiller pleaſes to give; whereas, before the eſtabliſhment of diſtilleries, and the additional exciſe on malt, a poor man made his boll of bear into malt, and paid the duty for it, and then diſtilled from it an excellent ſpirit, which he ſold at a high price to the rich, and thus obtained a good price for his grain, and the grains and offals helped to maintain, and often to preſerve the lives of his cattle when provender was ſcarce; now the whole advantages that were before enjoyed by the poor, are, by the diſtillery law, thrown into the hands of the rich diſtillers, (for none can be diſtillers upon the preſent plan but the comparatively rich), while malt and beer are in a manner entirely prohibited *.

* The impolicy as well as oppreſſion of the diſtillery law will appear from this circumſtance, that a diſtiller takes out a licence for a 40 gallon ſtill, for which he pays a duty to Government of L. 40 a-year, and an officer employed to attend that ſtill receives a ſalary of L. 50 a-year. The heavy exciſe on malt alſo, which in effect amounts to a total prohibition, neceſſarily promotes ſmuggling, which is always injurious to morals, as well as hurtful to the revenue; and it is univerſally thought, that Government does by no means draw ſo much from the northern counties of

of Scotland of excise-duties, as even to pay the salaries of the officers employed to levy it, notwithstanding the oppressions that the people suffer on account of it. It seems to be the general opinion, that if the excise and distillery laws were repealed in the north of Scotland, and the revenue raised by them yearly, including officers salaries, were transmitted to the commissioners of supply of the counties, to proportion it among themselves and tenants, they could pay in the same with the land-tax, and by this means, the revenue would be improved by the whole amount of the officers salaries at least, and the country would think themselves infinitely better, as they would then be permitted to do with their grain what they pleased without molestation.

NOTE.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are no objects of natural history peculiar to this parish. Limestone is the only mineral worth mentioning. The only wild beasts are the fox, the weasel or polecat, and the hare. The birds are few and common; moorfowl, partridge, plover, wild duck, bittern, rook, jackdaw, magpie, lark, sparrow, yellow hammer, robin, wren, watercock, linnet, and a few others. The parish is occasionally visited in winter by snow-birds, and in spring by flocks of sea-gulls and now and then by hawks, kites, ravens, and herons. The migratory birds, are the lapwing, cuckoo, corn rail, and swallow. There are no noted mineral springs in this parish, though some of them are considerably impregnated with iron; but there are two consecrated wells, one at the foot of a small natural mount adjoining to the castle of Grange, which, with the mount, had been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and are now called the Ladyhill and the Ladywell. The other spring is on the south bank of Isla, directly opposite to the church-door, and is called the Croik-well, probably from *Croix*, cross. The greater part of the people are rather above the ordinary size, and it seems have always been so. There are at least as many men in the parish above 5 feet 8 inches as there are below it; and several are 6 feet high: Accordingly such of them as go into the army, generally enlist either into the Guards or Train of Artillery. The ancestors of the greater part of the present inhabitants have lived in this parish for some centuries back, and many of them are descendents of the ancient feuars in the parish. The most ancient names are Innes, Adamson, Richardson, Riddoch, Longmoor, Carr, Kelman, Scot, Sim, Ballach, Beg, Craib, Gray, Howie, Allan, Wilson, Taylor, Reaper, Dyker, Neil, &c. &c. There are no persons of remarkable eminence, that have been born, lived, or died in this parish. It has indeed been

long famous for producing a great number of clergymen, and there are five miniſters of the Eſtabliſhment, and one of the Church of England, now alive, that were born in this pariſh. Beſides, there are many natives of it in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, in America, in London, and through many parts of Great Britain, that are all doing well in different lines of life. The people are in general regular in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion, and they are, upon the whole, ſenſible, ſagacious, ſocial, humane, obliging, ſober, induſtrious, and well behaved; no inſtance having occurred of any native being executed or baniſhed within the laſt 50 years; two inſtances of ſuicide, indeed, have happend within that period, the one of a man about 25 years ago, the other of a woman about 50 years ago.

NUM-

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF CRIEFF,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT STIRLING.

Name Situation, Extent, &c.

THE name of Crieff may be derived from the Gaelic word *Craobh*, a "tree;" the letters *bh* having the ſound of *f* or *v*; or more probably from *Crubha Cnoc*, the "haunch of the hill;" the town being built on a riſing ground, which may be conſidered as the haunch of the hill immediately beyond it, that ſtands detached from the Grampians, and is called the *Cnoc* or *hill*, by way of eminence. Crieff is 18 miles W. from Perth, and 20 N. from Stirling, near the foot of the Grampian mountains on the S. E. ſide; has a fine ſouthern expoſure, a moſt delightful variegated proſpect of hills, woods, vallies and rivers, to the W.; the open extenſive country of Strathearn to the S. and E. with the ancient ſeats of many families of diſtinction all around. Theſe circumſtances, together with the

the ſerene air, and the dry healthy ſituation, have induced people of taſte and ſcience, who frequently reſide there during the ſummer months, to account it the *Montpelier* of Scotland. Crieff is in bulk the ſecond town in Perthſhire. The pariſh in its utmoſt extent may be divided into the *highland* and *lowland* parts, which are detached from each other by the intervention of the pariſh of Monzie. The moſt conſiderable diſtrict of the former is the long Strath of Glenalmond, the property of the Duke of Athole, through which the Almond runs a courſe of 8 miles. That and the other parts of the highland diviſion afford advantages for game, trouting, and other ſummer amuſements, equal to any in the Highlands; may yield L. 700 yearly rent to the three proprietors, and contain about 500 inhabitants: But being annexed *quoad ſacra* to Monzie, will be more properly deſcribed along with that pariſh, and ſhall therefore be no farther noticed in any of the following obſervations. The *lowland* part of Crieff pariſh, which falls immediately under the inſpection of the miniſter, is 4 miles long from N. W. to S. E. and 3 broad from S. W. to N. E.; being bounded on the N. E. by the pariſh of Foulis; on the N. W. by the Shaggy, which ſeparates it from the highland part annexed to Monzie; on the W. by the Torot, which divides it from Monivaird; on the E. by the Pow, which ſeparates it from Maderty; and on the S. it is waſhed for 3 miles by the Earn, which is the border between it and Muthil, excepting one farm of near 100 acres, which it cut off to the S. ſide, by leaving its uſual bed about the end of laſt century. Theſe rivers abound in trout, the Earn alſo in ſalmon, which the principal heritor has the privilege of catching with cruives. This, however, does not hitherto exclude others from the pleaſure and profit of angling. The rivers are all furniſhed with ſtone bridges, generally built by

by the voluntary contributions of the country. That of Crieff was the ſecond ſtone bridge ever thrown over the Earn, conſiſts of 4 large arches, and was built out of the vacant ſtipend of the pariſh, in the interval between the ſuppreſſion of Epiſcopacy in 1690, and the re-admiſſion of a Preſbyterian miniſter in 1699.

Soil and Productions.—Near one half of the pariſh, that is, along the W. and S. ſides, is of a light, ſandy, ſometimes gravelly ſoil; around the town, from the nature and quantity of the manure, it becomes a pretty rich loam. The other half, to the eaſtward, is tilly, or a kind of ſtiff red clay, frequently wet, and lying upon rock of the ſame colour, which yields a hard durable ſtone for building, but incapable of hewing; whereas under the ſandy ſoil, to the weſtward, is an excellent freeſtone of a light brown colour, that eaſily cuts in the quarry, and admits of a good poliſh. Each ſort apparently partakes of the nature of the ſoil under which it is found.—The ſpecies of grain raiſed, are the beſt white oats of the late kind, bear, commonly called Cheſter, with ſometimes a mixture of barley, plenty of potatoes, a few peaſe, but no wheat. Some late experiments have not encouraged the general uſe of that grain. One boll of bear gives 1½ bolls of meal, and 1¼ bolls of oats 1 boll of meal, beſides paying kiln and mill dues. There are 2 very ſmall orchards of an old date, and 2 others of ſome acres extent, planted within theſe few years; one of them, near the town, in a good ſoil and warm S. expoſure, muſt ſoon be very productive.

Agriculture.—Until the year 1774, the old mode of farming by *croft* and *outfield* univerſally prevailed. As the outfields got no manure except watering, wherever that was wanting, they produced only a ſpecies of grey oats,

of which 2½ bolls made only 1 boll of meal. Then, however, ſome extenſive ſtrata of marl were diſcovered in the neighbourhood, the uſe of which quickly introduced a more profitable mode of agriculture; and fields of 4, 8, or 12 acres, began to be ſown out in good condition, with clover and rye-graſs; 210 ſtones of that hay may be raiſed on an acre, if the ground be in good order, and ſold before ſtacking at 4 d. the ſtone. The change in 20 years, appears from the following view.

On a Scots acre,	In 1772. B.	P.	In 1792. B.	P.
Sown of the grey oats above mentioned,	2	8	none uſed.	
Reaped of ditto, - -	7	0	0	0
Sown of white oats in poor land, -	1	8	1	4
Reaped of ditto in ditto, -	4	0	5	0
Sown of ditto in good land, -	1	6	1	2
Reaped of ditto in ditto, -	5	0	7	0
Sown of bear in ditto, - -	1	2	1	0
Reaped of ditto in ditto, -	6	0	8	0
Horſes yoked in a plough, -	4		2	

	In 1772.	In 1792.
Expenſe of liming or marling every 8th or 9th year,	L. 0 0 0	L. 5 0 0
Rent of land near the town,	0 10 0	2 17 0
——— open land in the country, - -	0 5 0	0 12 6
——— beſt incloſed paſture,	0 15 0	2 2 0
——— inferior ditto, -	0 10 0	1 0 0
Man ſervant's wages yearly,	3 6 8	10 10 0
Board to ditto, 6½ bolls meal, at 13s. 4d. and 8 d. a-week for milk, - -	6 1 4	6 1 4

Maid

	In 1772.	In 1792.
Maid ſervants wages, -	2 2 0	3 3 0
Board to ditto, 4 bolls 14 pecks meal a-year, and 6d a-week, - -	4 11 0	4 11 0
Beſt labourers hire a-day, -	0 0 9	0 1 0
Maſons ditto, - -	0 1 2	0 1 8
Wrights ditto, - -	0 1 1	0 1 6
Tailors ditto, beſides victuals,	0 0 5	0 0 9
Butter, the pound Tron, -	0 0 6	0 0 8
Cheeſe, the ſtone do. in ſummer,	0 3 0	0 3 6
——————— in winter,	0 4 8	0 5 4
Hens a-piece, - -	0 0 6	0 0 9
Chickens do, or eggs the doz.	0 0 2	0 0 3
Mutton the pound Dutch in Oct.	0 0 2	0 0 3
——————— ditto in June,	0 0 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 5
Beef, pork, veal, ditto, -	0 0 3	0 0 4
Coals the ſtone Tron, ſummer,	0 0 $1\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2
——————— ditto in winter,	0 0 2	0 0 $2\frac{1}{2}$ / 3*

About two thirds of the pariſh are incloſed, and trees generally planted in hedge-rows along the incloſures. There are only two ſmall hills in it. All the heathy and unarable part of the *Cnoc* or largeſt, amounting to 222 acres, is planted with firs interſperſed with larix, &c. The ſmalleſt, 500 yards diſtant, is all arable; the top of it, however, is alſo planted. Theſe, and the other plantations in the pariſh, executed ſince 1770, may extend to 270 acres. There is little old timber, except about a few gentlemens ſeats; and only two coppices of oak and birch, which do not together exceed 10 acres. Before 1770, there were a few ſmall plantations of old firs, which have ſince been almoſt wholly cut down.

Population.

* Coals roſe only in 1792, by the wet ſeaſon, and want of other fuel.

Population. — According to Dr Webſter's report, the numbers then were 1414. The population in 1776 and 1792 will appear from the following ſtatement, in which the village of Bridgend is comprehended in the town, as they are nearly joined by their mutual extenſion.

	1776.	1792.	Increaſe.
Families in the country,	91	102	11
Males, - -	228	253	25
Females, -	217	316	99
Souls, - -	445	569	124
Families in the town,	450	609	159
Males, - -	676	955	279
Females, -	856	1116	260
Souls, -	1532	2071	539
Families in the pariſh,	541	711	170
Males, -	904	1208	304
Females, -	1073	1432	359
Souls, - -	1977	2640	663
Papiſts, - -	3	25	22
Epiſcopals, -	53	39	Decr. 14
Antiburghers, -	111	205	Incr. 94
Bereans, -	37	50	13
Relief, - -		96	96
Eſtabliſhment, -	1773	2225	452
Births at an average of 10 years preceding,	52	62	10

Among the heads of families in 1792, were 124 widows; 55 maids, old and young; and 69 bachelors, of whom 15 above 50 years. The whole 711 heads of families conſiſted of the following claſſes or offices.

Apothecary,

Apothecary, phyſician and ſurgeons,	4	Mantuamakers or ſewſters,	11
Bakers,	4	Maſons and a ſlater,	16
Barbers,	2	Merchants or ſhopkeepers, of whom 19 retail tea,	49
Butchers,	8	Meſſengers,	2
Carriers,	9	Midwives	4
Carters,	29	Millers,	3
Clergymen,	3	Saddlers,	2
Clockmakers,	4	Schoolmaſters and ſchoolmiſtreſſes,	6
Coopers,	4	Shoemakers,	29
Dyers,	4	Smiths,	8
Diſtillers and brewer,	3	Spinſters,	159
Exciſe-officers,	3	Stockingmakers,	6
Farmers, (3 above L. 50 and 30 under L. 30.)	40	Tailors,	30
Fidlers,	2	Weavers,	92
Gardeners,	2	Wrights,	20
Gentry,	11	Writer and notary public,	1
Hecklers,	7		
Innkeepers	17		
Labourers,	111	Sum total,	711
Manufacturers,	6		

Corporations.—The number in each trade is not preciſely aſcertained by the preceding table, as it marks only the number of thoſe that, in each claſs, are heads of families. The moſt material difference, however, is in the claſs of the weavers, who generally train their children to their own employment. They are therefore by far the greateſt body of tradeſmen. In 1770, they formed themſelves into a corporation, and began to eſtabliſh a fund for the ſupport of their widows, and for the maintenance and education of their orphan children, each operative member paying 12 s.

at entry, and 1 s. annually to the fund. In 1786, they expended L. 200 in building a hall, which yields L. 11 yearly rent, beſides accommodating them at all their public meetings. The members now amount to 171; of whom 121 are of this pariſh. They make an annual proceſſion through the principal ſtreets of the town, on the King's birth-day, with a band of muſic and magnificent enſigns diſplayed, in token of their attachment to his Majeſty's perſon and Government. The tailors too have got a hall and a common good, on the ſame principles as the weavers. And the maſons have long had a lodge and a wealthy fund, though the operative brethren are moſtly of other pariſhes, and their funds chiefly enlarged by honorary members; among whom are inrolled many perſons of the firſt rank in the county.

Cauſes of increaſing Population.—The rapid increaſe of population here is owing to ſeveral concurring circumſtances. The people having had hitherto very little trade, ignorant of the means by which any money they acquired could be improved to advantage, think themſelves happy to ſecure it in a houſe and garden of their own property. The ſuperiors of the town have wiſely encouraged this ſpirit, and could not diſpoſe of their land more profitably than in ſmall feus to thoſe willing to build upon them. Accordingly, in 1768, a ſtreet 16 yards broad and 400 long, was formed by ſetting off feus 12 yards in front, and 40 in depth, paying no price, but a yearly feu-duty of 4 s. each *. At that rate, the whole ground, ſtreet included, ſtill brings the original proprietor L. 2 the acre. Since 1785, when the forfeited eſtates were reſtored, two other ſtreets are forming, by granting feus of L. 400 ſquare ells each, paying L. 4 price and 2 s. 6 d. yearly feu-duty, which, being

* N. B. The *old* feus were on much lower terms.

being along the ſide of public roads, and nothing loſt by ſtreets, is equal to L. 4, 12 s. the acre annually to the ſuperior. The houſes are almoſt univerſally two ſtories high, roofed with blue ſlate, and conſiſt of four rooms, &c. which generally accommodate two, ſometimes three, or even four families; and, with the garden adjoining, bring the feuar L. 5 of rent, if fully inhabited *. Moſt of theſe houſes, indeed, would lie waſte, were it not that the town ſtanding very near to, and on one of the principal roads leading from the Highlands, it is the firſt at which the Highlanders naturally arrive, when, by the formation of extenſive ſheep-farms, without introducing manufactures at the ſame time, they are compelled to leave their native land, in queſt of food, habitation, and employment. Here they find ſhelter and ſuſtenance at a cheaper rate than in moſt parts of Scotland; while the improving ſtate of the country, road making, which is here done by commutation of the ſtatute-labour, quarrying, marl-digging, ditching, planting, &c. afford moſt of them employment and growing wages. Some of the males indeed go farther ſouth for labour, or engage as domeſtic ſervants in neighbouring pariſhes, leaving the females behind; which is one reaſon of the exceſs of females obſervable in the preceding ſtatement. But what encourages them more than any thing elſe to ſettle here with their families, is the wiſe plan adopted by the proprietors of land near the town, equally profitable to themſelves and uſeful to the lower claſſes, of dividing it into ſmall portions of 20 ells ſquare, at 4 s. each of yearly rent, being equal to L. 2, 17 s. the acre, beſides the profit of a nurſery; for the lots are diſtinguiſhed by young trees planted in the corners of them, which the proprietors,

* The yearly rent of the whole feuars in the pariſh, ariſing to them from their feus, amounted, in 1785, to L. 734 : 14 : 9.

prietors tranſplant at pleaſure. Thus, every tradeſman, and labourer, and even females, have each their own lots, which they cultivate at leiſure hours, for raiſing lint, potatoes, and other neceſſaries. By this means, thoſe of ſedentary occupations preſerve their health, and the poor, their lives in time of ſcarcity: as in 1783, when many of the pooreſt ſort lived from the end of July, almoſt entirely on potatoes of their own * rearing, while oat-meal ſold at 1 s. 3 d. the peck. So far as the population is increaſed by the growth of the original inhabitants, it may be attributed to this circumſtance. The tradeſmen here, very few individuals excepted, are all on a level; no one chooſes to ſerve another, after he underſtands buſineſs himſelf. When the young weaver has finiſhed his apprenticeſhip, and acquired as much free ſtock as will purchaſe a loom, furniſh a room, and defray the expenſe of a wedding, he ſcorns to be a journeyman; but ſets up for himſelf, marries a wife, and becomes the father of a family.

Manufactures.—Theſe have hitherto had little effect on the population, in compariſon of what they will probably ſoon have. Beſides 3 corn-mills, 3 fulling mills, 1 for malt, 1 for barley, a lint-mill, and lately a threſhing mill, there was built in 1780 a paper-mill, that manufactures yearly near 1700 ſtones of rags, at 18 d. the ſtone, into the coarſer kinds of paper. And at the ſame date, an oil-mill, that preſſes yearly between 300 and 400 bolls of lintſeed of this country's growth, purchaſed at 18 s. the boll.

* The potatoes of crop 1782, ſuffered as much as the grain did by the ſeaſon; and farmers who could afford to live on other victuals, generally reſerved theirs for ſale in ſeed time, in hope of a high price. Thus the market was overſtocked, and in April and May, potatoes ſold at 4 d. the peck; and the poor, who had exhauſted their own ſcanty ſtore, got both ſeed and a new ſtock of proviſions at a very moderate price.

boll. In 1763, a merchant of Crieff erected a paper-mill, being the firſt of the kind, except one, on the north ſide of the Forth; an oil-mill in 1775; and in 1785, formed an extenſive bleachfield with ſuitable machinery. And ſo late as 1792, ſome other manufacturers of this town erected 2 mills for carding and ſpinning cotton, and a third oil-mill. Theſe, indeed, for the convenience of ground and water, were built on the oppoſite ſides of the rivers Earn and Torot, in the pariſhes of Muthil and Monivaird; yet are here mentioned, as they belong to inhabitants of this pariſh, a conſiderable number of whoſe children as well as adults they daily employ. A tambou ing manufacture commenced here in 1792, which preſently employs 30 girls from 8 to 12 years of age. Thoſe above 10 are engaged four years, and thoſe under 10 five: and receive of wages, L. 3, 10 s. for the firſt; L. 4, 10 s. the ſecond; L. 5, 10 s. the third; L. 6, 10 s. the fourth; and L. 8 for the fifth year. There are here two diſtilleries; one conſumes 500, the other 250 bolls of bear annually. And one brewery, begun in 1791, which in 1792 made 9600 gallons of beer at 14 d. and 22 d. the gallon from 400 bolls of bear at 15 s. the boll. There was a tannery built in 1782, and a ſecond in 1789. They are both now in the hands of one company, and are ſuppoſed in 1792 to have tanned 3100 hides of different ſizes, which, when fully manufactured, may bring above L. 3000. Of theſe hides 981 were bought raw in Crieff for L. 375, the cow-hides at 6 s. 9 d. the calf at 7 s. and 2 d. the ſtone. Till within theſe few years, the weavers chiefly worked in linen, worſted ſtuffs, druggets, and coarſe woollen cloths for the country uſe. Beſides theſe, they are now much employed in working a thin kind of coarſe linen called Sileſias, vulgarly Scrims, whereof each piece is 27 or 30 inches broad, and 92

yards laid, amounting to 106 from the loom. Each piece brings the workman a guinea, and was finiſhed by him in 24 days, till the introduction of the fly-ſhuttle in 1791, by which contrivance the ſame work is done in 14 days. This cloth is all ſent to Glaſgow, where it is whitened and printed. In 1790, only 2078 yards, but in 1792, 14,777 yards were wrought and ſtamped in Crieff, and might be ſold brown at 1 s. the yard. Of late a few hands are employed in weaving cotton cloth. The pieces are generally 130 yards, bring L. 2. each to the workman, and five guineas more to the owner. The exports are, coarſe linen, pack-ſheeting, ſacking, worſted ſtuffs, druggets, tanned leather, paper, lintſeed-oil, linen and cotton yarn, and ſome cotton cloth; beſides L. 7400, in caſh or bills to England. The imports are, black cattle and ſheep for ſlaughter, butter, cheeſe, meal, bear; 563 bags of wheat-flour for L. 1042; 5015 pounds of tea * for L. 983 : 6 : 8; 520 cwt. of ſugar from Glaſgow, and 260 cwt. from London, for L. 4095; whiſky, porter, wines, and foreign ſpirits; cloths, ſilks, muſlins, and cloathing articles, to the amount of L. 4700, whereof L. 3500 from England, including L. 213 for buttons; tobacco for L. 350; hardware for L. 340, ſtone do. tanned leather,

* When the quantity is ſpecified, it means in 1792. Above 20 times more tea is uſed now than 20 years ago. Bewitched by the mollifying influence of an enfeebling potion, the very pooreſt claſſes begin to regard it as one of the neceſſaries of life, and for its ſake reſign the cheaper and more invigorating nouriſhment which the productions of their country afford. The change in the mode of living, in this and ſome other reſpects, has perhaps produced a change in the nature of diſeaſes. The acute fever, that 30 years ago often attacked the careleſs and robuſt, and came to a criſis in 10 days, is now rarely ſeen; but to it have ſucceeded hyſterics, diſeaſes flowing from debility and relaxation, and the ſlow nervous fever, under which the patient languiſhes for three or ſix months, and probably never again recovers his wonted vigour. Here, however, the people in general are perhaps as healthy as in any part of Britain.

leather, lintſeed, rags, raw hides; lint, wool and raw cotton; linen and woollen yarn; dyers ſtuffs; iron caſt and in bars; foreign ood, &c. &c. For conveying theſe goods and manufactures, 2 carts go regularly once a fortnight to Edinburgh; 2 carts or more once a fortnight to Glaſgow; 4 carts twice a-week to Perth; and two or 3 carts twice a-week to Stirling.

Markets.—There is here a weekly market on Thurſday for all kinds of butchers meat, poultry, butter, cheeſe, &c. Of the firſt article, there is ten times more ſold now than 20 years ago; each kind too was then to be got only in its moſt plentiful ſeaſon, pork in winter, veal in ſpring, lamb early in ſummer, mutton from the middle of ſummer to Chriſtmas, beef from Lammas to Candlemas, when it almoſt totally diſappeared for ſix months. Now that article never fails, and commonly ſells at 4d. veal 3½d. or 4d. mutton 5d. 4d. or 3d. according to its rarity. Of ſix butchers that conſtantly ſupply the market, one laſt year ſold in it 73 bullocks, 620 ſheep, and calves without number; of which laſt, ſometimes 30 are ſold in one day. During the ſeaſon wherein the inhabitants of the town and adjacent country lay up powdered meat for winter and ſpring, butchers from other pariſhes bring great quantities to market; ſo that in November laſt, the value of L. 200 has been ſold in one day, reckoning 300 ſheep at 8 s. and 16 black cattle at L. 5 a-piece. That ſeaſon, however, includes only the months of October, November and December, in which more meat is ſold than in all the reſt of the year *. Till near

* Beſides the weekly market, there are three annual fairs. The firſt, St Thomas market on new-year's day, for ſhoes, home-made cloths, chapmen's wares, &c. The next Duchlage market, on the 3d Tueſday of June O. S. for the ſame purpoſes, and alſo for the ſale of country cattle, which can never be extenſive while they are forced to ſtand in a ſquare of the town. The third, and formerly by far the moſt conſiderable, is Michaelmas market, on the 10th of October.

near the middle of this century, Crieff had continued for ages to be the great mart to which the dealers in England annually reſorted, to purchaſe, for the Engliſh markets, the droves of black cattle reared in the Highlands of Scotland. And old people here ſometimes ſpeak with deep regret of the glorious ſcene diſplayed to view, when 30,000 black cattle, in different droves, overſpread the whole adjacent country for ſeveral miles around the town. A man of 84 now lives in Crieff, whoſe grandfather, for a long ſeries of years, uplifted cuſtom on that number of cattle, and thereby made a handſome profit to himſelf, while he paid L. 50 yearly to the landlord. But the principal ſale and meeting has ſince that time been removed to Falkirk, and not a ſingle head directly from the Highlands ever appears now in the market here; though 10,000 paſſed through the town the firſt week of October 1792, being only the third part of what met at Falkirk in the ſecond week of that month. Such droves as come this way from the north Highlands, always paſs at leaſt before 12 at noon of the day preceding our market, to avoid the cuſtomary duties, which they would otherwiſe be obliged to pay; that is, 1 s. the ſcore, or 1 d. the head for parcels under that number. The cattle-market here now conſiſts entirely of ſuch beaſts as have been either reared or at leaſt for ſome time grazed in the country, and do not exceed one thouſand; which are commonly bought up by Scots butchers or graziers. The changing of the market-place for highland cattle aroſe from the following cauſes. For a conſiderable time after the beginning of this century, the drovers from Argyle, Inverneſs, Roſs-ſhires, &c. paid nothing for the paſturing of their cattle all the way to the market; but in the improving ſtate of the country, graſs became more valuable, the roads more confined, and the drovers were forced to inquire

quire after the moſt convenient and cheap roads from their ſeveral homes, to the principal market-place, now at Falkirk, where the roads leading by the ſhorteſt courſe from every quarter of the Highlands towards England, naturally unite; and where the whole of the Argyle and near half of the Inverneſs-ſhire cattle can arrive ſome days journey earlier than if they came by Crieff. The additional travel was no loſs, while the paſture coſt them nothing; but would now conſiderably affect their profits. By the removal, alſo, of the noble family that had a particular intereſt in this market, extortions in the cuſtoms, and reſtraints on the cattle in paſſing occurred, which juſtice and patriotiſm would have induced them to prevent, had they been reſiding in the country. But eſpecially the incloſing of certain lands adjacent to the town, about the year 1750, by removing ſome of the drovers from their uſual ſtations, excited ſuch diſguſt and murmurs as ſoon terminated in the ruin of the market. Beſides the 30,000 cattle above mentioned, it is calculated, that 20,000 met at Falkirk on what is called the Auguſt Tryſt in 1792, and above 10,000 more were ſold at Down in Monteith the firſt week of November that year; and at leaſt a third part of both quantities paſſed through this town to theſe markets. So that the numbers that go ſouth are certainly not diminiſhing, notwithſtanding the increaſing conſumption every where. Some years, indeed, few in compariſon may croſs the Engliſh border; but if a dry ſeaſon leſſen the demand from England, the extenſive paſtures and vaſt conſumpt in the ſouth of Scotland, ſuffer not the drovers to be diſappointed of a ſale *.

Antiquities.

* The other commodities of the Crieff Michaelmas market continue nearly in the ſame ſtate as formerly; particularly the ſmall Highland horſes, of which near a thouſand appear there annually for ſale, as well as a conſiderable number of the inferior kinds of country horſes. On the laſt

Antiquities.—There is ſcarcely any monument of antiquity in the pariſh. Even the large detached ſtones arranged circularly on various eminences, and accounted temples of the Druids, are generally removed for the ſake of agriculture. The old parochial church was an antique Gothic building, 95 feet long within; but being only 18 feet wide, and 14 in the quire, was not near half the ſize of the preſent church. At the demolition of it in 1787, were found among the rubbiſh, about 40 pieces of bright gold coin of Robert I. of Scotland, having that King's head encircled with the words *Robertus rex Scotorum*, and St Andrew with his croſs on the *reverſe*. Each piece was equal in breadth to a guinea of the preſent reign, and preciſely one fourth of it in weight. They were all much worn, and had been depoſited in a niche of the wall ſix feet above the ground-floor, probably in ſome time of public danger. On a plain, half a mile ſouth from the town, is a circle of 12 yards diameter, (lately ſurrounded with a low wall of earth and ſtone, and now left open in the planation,) on which the Steward of the King's eſtate of Strathern formerly held his court, after that earldom fell to the Crown by the forfeiture of the Counteſs Joanna, who, having married the Engliſh Earl of Warren, was found guilty of treaſonable practices againſt Robert I. and the office of Steward in time became hereditary in the family of Drummond, till the abolition of heritable juriſdictions in 1748. For the accommodation of that court, and other public buſineſs, was built in 1665 the preſent tolbooth, which

laſt Tueſday of May, O. S. is Torot market, for cattle, horſes, &c. now more frequented than any other in this part of the country; and though it ſtands within the limits of Monivaird pariſh, yet, being within half a mile of Crieff, more money is that day left among the inhabitants for liquors, clothes, groceries, and all ſorts of merchandiſe, than on any other throughout the year.

which has a decent ſpire, containing the town clock, and a good bell, gifted in 1725, as its Latin inſcription bears, by Lord John Drummond, uncle of James the third Duke of Perth. To that family the ſuperiority of the greateſt part of the town belongs, and the property of ſome of the beſt buildings, particularly a large and elegant aſſembly room, built in 1790, and frequently honoured with the preſence of the chief nobility and gentry of Perthſhire. Adjoining to that is the principal inn, where ſtrangers of any rank may lodge comfortably, and where two chaiſes kept for hire are well employed; although in 1770, and again in 1780, an attempt to keep one had miſcarried.

Religion, Poor, &c.—John Drummond was miniſter of Crieff, from 1699 to 1755. In his time none ſeparated from the church, who had been previouſly of the eſtabliſhment; but a number ſtill adhered to the Epiſcopal mode of worſhip, whoſe forefathers in the preceding century, had, in Conformity to the wiſhes of the court, embraced Epiſcopacy. During the incumbency of Thomas Stewart, his immediate ſucceſſor, about the year 1763, the Seceders of the claſs of Antiburghers formed there a congregation. Next in ſucceſſion was the preſent miniſter, admitted in 1770. In his time aroſe the ſect called Bereans, whoſe founder had been a private tutor in the pariſh, and formed ſome of his relations and connexions there into a party *. Theſe, with the Epiſcopals and Papiſts, have no clergyman in

* Rejecting eſtabliſhed articles and confeſſions of faith, they hold the Bible to be the only certain rule of faith and manners. At the ſame time, they hold, that none can be ſaved, except ſuch as have a full aſſurance of their own ſalvation, and that every one poſſeſſing this aſſurance is perfectly ſafe. That aſſurance, however, they do not pretend to build on the conformity of their actions to the rules of Chriſtianity.

in the pariſh. The ſect of Relief alſo was introduced there about the year 1785, through a ferment excited by the ſettlement of a miniſter on a reluctant congregation in the neighbourhood. They and the Seceders have each a clergyman of their own in the pariſh. What idea ſhould be formed of the ſectaries, conſidered either in a religious or political light, would perhaps be a fruitleſs inquiry; but as they do not maintain their own poor, they tend evidently to the diminution of the ordinary funds for maintaining the poor of the pariſh, for whom no aſſeſſment is made, and who are ſupplied merely from the collections at the church-door. Theſe are more than doubled within the laſt 20 years, owing chiefly to the enlargement of the church, and conſequently greater number of contributors; and partly to the increaſing wages, or even luxury and vanity of the lower claſſes.—Collections for the poor were in 1772, L. 25 : 1 : 3; in 1792, L. 54 : 6 : 1. About the year 1780, female ſervants and others of that rank began firſt to wear ribbons. Conſcious of attracting ſuperior notice, ſuperior charity was alſo diſplayed; and the reſult muſt have proved very conſiderable, had it continued to keep pace with the vaſt improvement in the dreſs of both ſexes, during the ſhort intervening period. For inſtead of the grave and ſolid productions of the country, the gay cloths, ſilks, muſlins, and printed cottons of England, adorn on Sundays almoſt every individual. The collections, which would be much greater if all the heritors reſided and attended the church, might tolerably ſupport the poor that are natives of the pariſh, but are far from being ſufficient to prevent begging, and to maintain the great number of poor that ariſe through the influx of indigent families from the Highlands, whoſe ſmall ſtock joined to their labour ſupports them for three years without begging, after

which

which they often fall upon the pariſh funds. Including ſuch as are ſupplied weekly, 69 perſons, all of different families, appear on the liſt as occaſionally ſupplied in 1792; and to theſe might be added 26 more, who, as well as they, have been relieved from other ſources of charity. For beſides the collections, ſome of the heritors have at times been very liberal in their donations of meal and money, or wood for fuel; eſpecially in the winter of that year, when peats had been loſt by the wet ſummer, and coals greatly advanced in price, above 400 carts of wood were given *gratis* by two heritors, and money advanced by others to purchaſe coals. There is nothing, indeed, that the people in general feel more than the difficulty of procuring fuel *.

Language.—The people ſpeak the Engliſh language in the beſt Scotch dialect: although the Gaelic be commonly ſpoken at the diſtance of three miles north, or four weſt from Crieff, yet no adult natives of the *lowland* part of the pariſh can either ſpeak or underſtand it. They have not even contracted the peculiar tone of that language, by their intercourſe with the numerous Highland families now

* The pooreſt families have nothing but ſticks and broom, the next claſs have a mixture of wood, peats and coals; but thoſe who can afford it, find coal alone by far the cheapeſt fuel, though it muſt be brought 22 miles by land carriage. As the price, however, of that article is ſomewhat advanced at the coal-mine, and the demand there become greater through various circumſtances the riſe accidentally produced here of late will hardly be removed by the ſcheme of fine toll-roads now in agitation, nor indeed by any thing elſe, except the ſucceſs of thoſe exertions now making to find coal in this neighbourhood. Nothing could be more advantageous to this part of the country than ſuch an acquiſition; and next to that, the forming a canal between Crieff and Perth, ſo ſoon as the progreſs of manufactures and of other improvements can afford the needful expenſe.

I

reſiding in the town. Many indeed of theſe underſtand no other language but the Gaelic, and their children born in Crieff ſpeak that alone for a few years as their mother-tongue. The great number of theſe Highland families, their general poverty, their frequent ignorance in the grand ſubjects of revelation, their incapacity of deriving benefit from the public religious ſervice performed in the Engliſh language, the happy effects to themſelves and to ſociety that might reſult from a proper regard paid to their intereſt and comfort, are all ſuch, as juſtly to merit the humane attention and friendly aid of the Society for propagating Chriſtian knowledge. A ſmall annuity allotted to a prudent man qualified to inſtruct and catechize theſe people on Sundays, would be an undoubted act of piety and beneficence.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXIX.

TOWN AND PARISH OF INVERNESS,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Meſſrs ROBERT ROSE, GEORGE WATSON, *and* ALEXANDER FRASER, *Miniſters of that Town and Pariſh.*

Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, and Climate.

INVERNESS was anciently written *Innerneſs.* The town of Inverneſs, from which the pariſh has its name, is ſituated at the mouth of the river Neſs. *Inner* is Gaelic, and expreſſive of that ſituation. The river derives its name from Lochneſs, which is its ſource. Some promontories and headlands in our own and in other northern countries, are called Neſs, as Buchanneſs, the Naes of Norway, Neſs *quaſi* noſe, from its prominency. But no promontory is in Lochneſs *. The pariſh of Inverneſs is 10 computed miles

* This led ſome curious perſons (Lowthorp's Abridg. of the Phil. Tranſ. II. 222.) to ſeek for the origin of the name in the traditions

miles long, and 2½ broad. The appearance of the country is various; it is partly flat, partly hilly, rocky and mountainous. The ſoil is fertile, the general character of it is, with ſome exceptions, a black loam, rather light, and on a gravelly bottom. The air is dry and healthy, conſequently we are not afflicted with any peculiar diſeaſe. Fevers ſometimes make their appearance, particularly in the ſpring and autumn; but upon inquiry, we ſeldom fail of diſcovering the cauſe in the inattention and foolhardineſs of the patient. Epidemical fevers rarely viſit us. Fevers, it is believed, are not ſo fatal with us as formerly; this is attributed to the cool regimen and antiſeptics, which are the general practice. The ſmall-pox which, before the introduction of inoculation, proved ſo ſad a bar to the increaſe of the people, will ſoon in this pariſh, it is hoped, be no bar at all. The ſucceſs which attends it has done away almoſt every prejudice in its diſfavour. A ſquare wright, who

ditions of old bards. By theſe traditions they were informed, that Nyſus, an Iriſh hero, had ſettled a colony of his countrymen in Strath-harick. The æra of this event is paſſed over in ſilence. Veſtiges, however, of his caſtle and fortreſs are ſtill to be ſeen, on the ſummit of Dun Deardill, a rock of high elevation, at a ſhort diſtance from the lake. The rock had its name from Dornadilla, the Lady of Nyſus. This hero built a barge, and was the firſt who ſailed the lake. Hence Lochneſs. We reliſh not the derivation from Nyſus, and will hazard a conjecture of our own. The two rivers which have their courſe through the country of Strath-harick, and diſcharge themſelves in Lochneſs, are Carrigack and Fechloin. Theſe rivers are remarkable for high cataracts, particularly Fechloin. In this river and near the mouth of it, is the Fall of Foyres, a tremendous cataract. This cataract attracts the notice of all travellers, and when a flood is in the river, ſtrikes the beholder with aſtoniſhment. *Eſs*, in the Gaelic language ſignifies a "waterfall or cataract." The lake which is ſupplied with the water of this fall, might not unaptly be called Lochneſs, that is the lake of the cataract. The names of places, lakes and rivers, are not unfrequently taken from the moſt important and ſtriking objects in their vicinity; here the object is awfully ſtriking, and the relation cloſer than that which is formed merely by vicinity.

who reſides at the diſtance of two miles from the town, and who ſuffered in his family by the natural ſmall-pox, is become, with the lower claſs of people, an inoculator. The firſt he inoculated was a child of his own, and an only child. He forcibly inculcates a ſedulous attention to light bed-clothes, freſh air, cleanlineſs, and ſimple diet. He is a ſucceſsful inoculator, and has the generoſity to practiſe *gratis*. We have not heard of any remarkable inſtance of longevity in this pariſh. Perſons of 80, and ſome years beyond that period, are not uncommon; a few we have known who ſurvived 92 and 93 years, but not one who lived up to a full 100.

Lake and River.—Lochneſs is partly in this pariſh. It is 24 miles long, and at a medium 2 broad. Soon after the Revolution, it was ſounded by one George Scot, with 500 fathoms, and afterward by a Captain Orton, with a whole barrel of plumb-line, but without ſucceſs; no bottom could be found *. Sir John Pringle, however, who in the year 1746 was with the army at Fort Auguſtus, ſays †, that the common ſoundings are from 116 to 120 fathoms, and that in one place they ran to 135. On the ſuppoſition that the ſoundings of either period were general over the whole lake, and not particular, confined to different parts of it, we cannot help conſidering the ſoundings of the latter period to be the more probable account. But when the great extent of the lake is attended to, it ſeems not unlikely that the former and latter ſoundings were in different parts of the lake. It is very probable that the latter ſoundings were in the ſouth end of it, near which the army then lay in encampment. The ſoundings by George Scot and Captain Orton,

* Lowthorp's Abridg. of the Phil. Tranſ. II. 222.

† On the Diſeaſes of the Army.

Orton, were communicated to the Royal Society, by the Rev. Mr James Fraſer, then miniſter of Kirkhill, near Inverneſs, who was a diſtinct and accurate perſon, as well as learned and ingenious: This gentleman relates to the Society, at the ſame time with the above, ſome curious obſervations he made on a ſmall lake near Lochneſs, in theſe words: "To the weſtward of the caſtle of Urquhart, above 4 miles, ſtands the great mountain, *Meal fourvouny*, of a round, neat, high ſhape, and may be 2 miles perpendicular height from the lake. Upon the very top of this hill, there is a lake of cold freſh water, about 30 fathoms in length and 6 broad, no courſe or ſtream running to it or from it. I plumbed with 100 fathoms of ſmall line, but could find no bottom. It is always equally full, and never freezes." Lochneſs and the river lie between the 57th and 58th degrees N. L. They were never known to freeze by the extremeſt cold experienced in ſo northern a climate. They not only do not freeze, but diſſolve froſt in bodies that are put into them. We have frequently obſerved waſherwomen dip linens, when ſtiffened by froſt, in the river to thaw them. The river in froſty weather ſmokes, and a thick fog hangs over it, which ſometimes ſpreads to a conſiderable diſtance, and greatly mitigates the coldneſs of the air on either ſide. This is common to the lake *.

The

* Sir George Mackenzie, who was King's Advocate in the reign of Charles II. in a communication to the Royal Society, relates as follows. "Dr George Mackenzie who lives at Inverneſs told me, that he obſerves roſemary though uncovered to continue in the gardens about Lochneſs ſide, notwithſtanding the laſt winter's long and violent froſts; whereas, a far leſs violent winter ordinarily kills all the roſemary which is in gardens, that lie in warmer places, and at the ſea ſide. And though I live near it, and in a better ſoil and warmer ſituation, yet any winter more than ordinarily cold kills my roſemary, though covered over with ſtraw and litter. This he attributes, (and I think upon good ground), to the warmth occaſioned by thoſe ſtreams that frequently ariſe from that lake †."

† Lowthorp's Abridg. II. 22.

The water, notwithſtanding, when taken out of the lake or river, freezes as ſoon as any other; and when the degree of cold is extreme, even the agitation of the water in carrying it to diſtant parts of the town, does not hinder its freezing by the way. The water is ſoft, has no mineral taſte, and eaſily bears ſoap, and yet is believed to be impregnated with ſome mineral ſubſtance, for it proves laxative to perſons who are not in the uſe of drinking it. This effect it has on horſes. Travellers or their ſervants are therefore invariably directed by innkeepers to another ſtream to water their horſes. The water, however, has no more effect on animals in the uſe of drinking it than any other water. We have not heard that it was attempted to inveſtigate and aſcertain, by chymical analyſis, the component parts of the Neſs water *. The lake is navigated by

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* The not freezing of Lochneſs has been aſcribed by ſome to many fountains ſuppoſed to be in the lake, and by others to hot ſprings; but by Sir John Pringle (on the Diſeaſes of the Army) to the great depth of the lake, Count Marſilli obſerving that the ſea, from 6 to 120 fathoms, is of the ſame degree of heat from December to the beginning of April. Now, ſays Sir John, it is reaſonable to believe, that the great depths in freſh water, will be little more affected than thoſe of the ſea with the heat and coldneſs of the air, and therefore that the ſurface of Lochneſs may be kept from freezing, by the vaſt body of water underneath, of a degree of heat conſiderably greater than the freezing point. Another circumſtance he ſays concurs; there is never any perfect calm upon the lake, and the wind blowing always from one end to the other, makes ſuch an undulation as muſt much obſtruct the freezing of the water. He ſays further, this account ſeems to be confirmed by an obſervation commonly made in the neighbourhood, which is, that when the water is taken out of the lake and kept from motion, it then freezes as ſoon as any other water. We know not whether the Count has aſcertained the degree of heat in great depths of the ſea with preciſion. It is not probable, however, that the heat ariſing merely from the depth of the great body of water underneath, and ſaid by Sir John, on the authority of the Count, to be conſiderably greater than the freezing point, is ſo great as to counter-

act

a King's galley, to ſupply the garriſon ſtationed at Fort Auguſtus with ſtores. The ſtores are conveyed by land-carriage to the lake; for the river is not navigable beyond the harbour. The river is 6 miles long, dividing the pariſh and town unequally: it runs ſlowly, with placid majeſty, never overflowing its banks, in a channel whoſe fall is ſcarcely 10 feet. In the river, at a ſhort diſtance ſouth from the town, is a delightful iſland. Several years ago, the trees in this iſland, diſcovered, from great age, ſtrong ſymptoms of decay. The magiſtrates ordered them to be cut down, and their place to be ſupplied with a plantation of different ſpecies of foreſt-trees. This plantation thrives amazingly, and is a great ornament to the valley.

Fiſh.

act the coldneſs of the air and obſtruct the freezing of the ſurface, when the thermometer is ſo low as 23 degrees under the freezing point, which it ſometimes is in the pariſh of Inverneſs, if not lower. Sir John ſeemed to have been apprehenſive of this, in adverting to the conſtant undulation of the lake That Lochneſs, from its ſituation, is never perfectly calm, we believe to be nearly true. But we may be certain that the ſmall lake, on the very top of Meal fourvouny, from its ſituation likewiſe, and having no ſtream running to it or from it, is at times perfectly calm, and yet it is as little liable to have ice as Lochneſs. The Neſs water, indeed, when taken out of the lake or river freezes as ſoon as any other; but this is not owing to its being kept in a ſtate of reſt; for its conſtant fluctuation in water veſſels, from the river to diſtant parts of the town, does not in hard froſt obſtruct its congealing by the way The water, when taken out of the lake or river, whether kept at reſt or in motion, freezes as ſoon as any other. It ſeems not then likely, that the not freezing of Lochneſs is comprehended in the principle of the Count Marſilli. Whatever it is which hinders the freezing of the lake, will readily be allowed to be that which hinders the freezing of the river, and which diſſolves froſt in bodies that are put into it, even at the diſtance of 6 miles from the lake, and to be that, which likewiſe occaſions the ſmoking of the lake and river in froſty weather, and ſo remarkably mitigates the coldneſs of the air on their banks. If ſo, the heat owing merely to the depth of the great body of water underneath, and ſaid to be conſiderably greater than the freezing point, will not go far, if indeed any way, in accounting for the not freezing of Lochneſs.

Fiſh.—In the river Neſs are ſalmon, bull trouts, and flounders. The ſalmon-fiſhing begins on the 30th of November, and ends the 18th of September. The Berwick Fiſhing Company have fiſhed this river near 40 years. They pay L. 230 a-year to the proprietors of the lower diviſion of the river, and about L. 100 to the proprietors of the upper diviſion, beyond the cruives and bulwarks, as a compenſation for the Saturday ſlop, or breach in the bulwarks, from the ſetting of the ſun on Saturday, till its riſing on Monday; to which the heritors of this diviſion, to let the fiſh paſs upward, are entitled by ſtatute. The quantity of ſalmon caught in the river is believed to amount, one year with another, to 300 or 350 barrels. In the beginning of the ſeaſon, the ſalmon is packed in kits for the London market, and fetches a high price. The leaſe of the Berwick Fiſhing Company is nearly expired; it is ſaid a renewal of it will not be obtained for leſs than double the preſent rent. There is but little of the ſalmon ſold here, and that little, by favour to particular perſons, at 3 d. the lb. The bull trouts are not packed, but ſold here, and at 3 d. the lb.; ſome of them are very large, weighing from 10 to 12 lb. They generally, however, weigh only from 3 to 4 lb. The flounders are not good; their fleſh, like that of all freſh water flounders, is ſoft, and of indifferent flavour. The ſea-coaſt is 3 miles long, and flat and ſandy. The fiſh caught on this coaſt, are herrings, and garvocks, or ſprats. The herrings are ſmall, but very delicious, if dreſſed the day they are caught. They are only occaſional viſitants on this coaſt. In ſome years, there is not the leaſt appearance of them; in others, leſs or more ſcanty; but a great and plentiful ſhow may be ſaid to be rather uncommon. Two or three adventurers on the bounty, in plentiful years, fiſhed here, and it is ſaid, with tole-

rable ſucceſs. This fiſhing, however, is ſo very precarious, that it cannot be ſuppoſed a preparation to any degree, beyond a trifling amount, will be made for it. The ſprats are not ſeen ſo often as even the herrings. It is upwards of 20 years ſince we had them in great abundance, or it may be ſaid at all, on this coaſt. The herrings and ſprats are beſt in the months of September, October and November.

Hills and Mountains.—The moſt remarkable hill in this pariſh is Tom-na-heurich, near the town, on the weſt ſide of the river. It is a beautiful inſulated mount, nearly reſembling a ſhip, with her keel uppermoſt. This hill, in the year 1753, was incloſed and planted, chiefly with Scotch firs. The hill is compoſed of ſand and gravel, and before it was planted, yielded only a ſhort thin heath, and was of no advantage to the proprietor. This hill ſtands on a baſe, whoſe length is 1984 feet, and breadth 176. The elevation of the hill, from the channel of the river, is 250. The moſt ſtriking mountains in this pariſh, form that range on the weſt ſide of the river, which is a continuation of the great chain, running from Lochlomond to the frith of Tain, known to antiquaries by the name of Drumalbin, and which divided the Scottiſh from the Pictiſh kingdom. In this range, on the ſummit of a rock, called Craig-Phatrick, are the remains of a vitrified fort, generally believed to be Pictiſh, and if Pictiſh, probably the remains of the Royal Seat at Inverneſs, of which Adamnan, Abbot of Jona, makes mention in his Life of the celebrated Saint Columba; hither, as Adamnan relates, the Saint repaired from Jona, and converted Brudius, the Pictiſh monarch, to the Chriſtian faith. The elevation of Craig-Phatrick from the river is 1150 feet.

Woods.

Woods.—There are no natural woods in this pariſh, if we except an inconſiderable oak-wood, which is periodically cut for the bark. But this defect is amply compenſated by the extenſive plantations with which the pariſh abounds. In the extremity of the pariſh eaſtward, on the eſtate of Culloden, there is a plantation of Scotch firs and foreſt-trees of conſiderable extent. This plantation was completed above 70 years ago. It is of great advantage to the proprietor, and will undoubtedly be of ſtill greater. The plantations on the eſtate of Kinmylies, in the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, were begun about 35 years ago, and completed in a few years. On this eſtate every acre that was not capable of being improved to arable land was planted. Others followed this example. One gentleman in particular, who kept an exact account of his operations, planted 15,000 foreſt-trees of the following kinds: elm, aſh, beach, oak, and ſycamore, and 4 millions of Scotch firs, which occupy a ſpace of 800 acres of Duncan, one of the Drumalbin range of mountains. In ſhort, on the face of this range to the eaſt, and as far as the property of the gentlemen in this pariſh extends to the weſt, with the exception of what was fit for arable land, and the oak-wood formerly mentioned, from Lochneſs northward to the Beauly frith, an extent of ſix miles in length, is covered with thriving plantations. Beſide theſe, there are ſeveral other plantations, and all in a thriving ſtate. This buſineſs is ſtill going on with little remiſſion, ſo that in a few years it is likely there will not be a ſingle uſeleſs acre in this pariſh.

Agriculture, &c.—Wheat, barley, oats, and peaſe, are ſown in this pariſh. The wheat from the middle of October till the end of November, the barley from the middle of

of April till the latter end of May, and the oats and peaſe from the beginning of March till the middle of April. Some rye is ſown mixed with oats, but beans may be ſaid to be no crop at all in this pariſh. Generally the corn is not gathered in before the middle of October, rarely in September, and in ſome years not before the latter end of November. Potatoes are raiſed in great abundance, and are of very great importance. They conſtitute the principal part of the food of the lower claſs of the inhabitants for more than three quarters of the year. They are planted from the middle of April till the middle of May, and in drills with the plough. About the middle of Auguſt we begin to raiſe them for immediate ſupply; but the corn harveſt buſineſs is completely ended before we raiſe them for ſtoring. It may be obſerved here, that we know nothing in this pariſh of the diſeaſe called curled tops, which proves ſo prejudicial to this uſeful plant in ſome other places. Field turnips, white and yellow, are ſown from the middle of June till the ſecond week of July, and in drills. There is no hemp ſown, and but little flax, and that for private uſe only. It would be tedious to mention the variety that ſtill obtains in the rotation of crops. The moſt approved courſe, however, is gaining ground among us, and will, it is expected, become prevalent. Much is done in the way of incloſing, but much remains to be done. The value land derives from being incloſed is univerſally acknowledged. A field at the diſtance of about half a mile from the town was lately incloſed; when open it yielded only L. 8. rent. It was incloſed at the expenſe of between L. 25 and 30, and was ſold at the price of L. 550, and reckoned by the purchaſer a good bargain. Sea ware, ſtreet and ſtable dung, and lime, are all uſed for manure. The ſea-ware is much uſed by thoſe who live

near

near the ſhore. The Engliſh plough drawn by two horſes, and without a driver, is now generally uſed. The lower claſs of farmers at ſome diſtance from the town, and in hilly and ſtony ground, uſe with a driver the Scotch plough, drawn by four ſmall horſes, or four or ſix oxen, or horſes and oxen together. Lord Kames's harrows were tried here by ſome, but are diſcontinued. Drill ploughs and rollers of various kinds are uſed here. The draught horſes of the better ſort of farmers are from 14 to 16 hands high, and were a few years ago bought for from 10 to 12 guineas each. The price is now much raiſed, even to L. 16 and to L. 20. This has induced ſeveral in the pariſh to keep breeding mares, in which they will undoubtedly find their advantage *. The land-rent of the whole pariſh was in the

* *Price of Labour and Proviſions.*—A ploughman has from L. 5 to L. 7 a year, with 6 bolls, half oat and half bear-meal, a houſe, kail-yard, land for potatoes; his peats are carried home likewiſe, and ſome have graſs for a cow; but the laſt is not common. Theſe ſervants live comfortably, their wives are employed in little manufactures for clothing their own families and for ſale, and ſometimes in ſpinning for the manufactures at Inverneſs, and earn about 2 s. a-week. A woman farm ſervant's fee is L. 1, 12 s. and maintenance in the houſe, and a herd's wages are much the ſame. A maſon's wages a-day, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d; a wright's from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d.; a tailor's 6 d. with maintenance. Weavers and ſhoemakers work by the piece. Day-labourers at ditching, digging, and other out-work, from 8 d. to 1 s; threſhing of corn 8 d. the boll. Women reapers 6 d. without maintenance. Men-reapers 8 d. or 10 d. no maintenance. Mowing rye-graſs and clover, from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. the acre, according to the weight of the crop, or 1 s. 6 d. the day. Women in weeding and hoeing potatoes, are paid at the rate of 5 d. the day.—There are two weekly markets at Inverneſs: beef, mutton and pork, coſt from 2½ d to 4 d. the pound. Veal and lamb at the beginning of the ſeaſon may perhaps be reckoned dear, but afterward very reaſonable. The old cuſtom of laying up in ſalt a family's whole ſtock of beef for the year at Martinmas is long happily diſcontinued, and a far better obtains. Stall-feeding in this pariſh and the neighbourhood has been well underſtood for a conſiderable time, and practiſed to advantage, and

the year 1754, 3268 bolls and 3 firlots victual, and L. 575, 7 s. 11⅓ d. Sterling. The boll at that period was valued to the tenant at 9 merks Scots or 10s. Sterling, with cuſtoms and ſervices, which were of little value to the proprietor, but often of diſtreſſing conſequences to the tenant. The cuſtoms and ſervices are aboliſhed. The land-rent is riſen far beyond double the above, and is ſtill increaſing, nor are the tenants by any means overburdened; they are much better able to pay the preſent rents than they were to pay the former, when oppreſſed by ignorance and indolence, cuſtoms and ſervices. Many acres of waſte land too have been improved ſince the year 1754, bearing luxuriant crops of corn, which add conſiderably to the rental of the pariſh. It cannot be ſaid with preciſion what the number of acres in the pariſh is, as all the eſtates have not been meaſured. The number however cannot be under 5000 arable acres. At preſent lands let at from 13 s. to L. 2 an acre Garden ground near the town lets at from L. 4 to L. 5. Few eſtates have been ſold in this pariſh for many years. Lands were lately bought for no leſs than 35 years purchaſe, and lands too cultivated to the utmoſt, almoſt all garden-ground. There are about 50 heritors, 14 or 16 may

and the markets are well ſupplied with beef of the beſt quality the whole year round. Hens and ducks are ſold at 6 d. 8 d. or 9 d. each; chickens and ducklings, at 3 d.; a gooſe 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d.; a turkey 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. according to the goodneſs. The fiſh-market is well ſupplied with cods, haddocks, whittings, ſkates, flounders, &c. &c. in their ſeaſons, all at moderate prices, rarely high, and ſome years herrings are in ſuch abundance as to be ſold not by tale but by meaſure. A Scots pint of warm milk is ſold at 2 d. and of ſkimmed milk at 1 d.; a dozen eggs at 2 d.; cheeſe at from 4 s. to 5 s. the ſtone; freſh-butter for 8 d. the lb.; ſalt-butter at from 10 s. 6 d. to 12 s. the ſtone; oat-meal at from 14 s. to 17 s. the boll, nine ſtones to the boll; bear and peaſe meal at 11 s. and ſometimes 14 s. the boll, ten ſtones; potatoes generally 6 d. the peck, they are ſold by meaſure, the peck weighs 32 lb. Amſterdam. Butcher-meat, butter, cheeſe, and meal, are all ſold here *b* the Amſterdam weight.

may be reckoned conſiderable. There are 4 of them non-reſiding; but on the eſtates of the non-reſiding heritors improvements are going forward in various kinds, as well as on the eſtates of thoſe who conſtantly reſide. The land-rent of the pariſh is not nearly equal to the expenditure of the proprietors; their other properties and reſources are very conſiderable. The ſmall tenantry are gradually wearing away; in a little time there will be none of them; the rents of the more conſiderable tenants are from L. 40 to L. 300. The farmer who pays the greateſt rent in the pariſh has ſeveral ſubtenants. Monopolizing of farms began here about 25 years ago. This evidently affects the population of the country part of the pariſh; but fortunately the deficiency is more than compenſated by the manufactures eſtabliſhed in the town, which have increaſed conſiderably its population, and not a ſingle individual is under the neceſſity of leaving his native home, to ſeek for employment and bread at a diſtance, in another country.—The horſes in the pariſh amount to about 600; the black cattle 1000; and there may be about 1000 ſheep, generally of the old ſmall breed of the Highlands. One gentleman has a flock of about 100 of the black-faced Linton breed. They thrive well. There are in the pariſh 13 meal mills, 3 flour and 2 barley mills.

The Town.—Inverneſs is a royal burgh of great antiquity. Its firſt charter was granted by K. Malcolm Canmore. It always ſtood firm in its allegiance to the Crown, and maintained in ancient times with the neighbouring rebellious chieftains and their clans many deſperate conflicts *. The laſt charter in favour of the burgh was granted

* The following names are traces of this ſtate of hoſtility. On the weſt ſide, where irruptions were commonly made, and at ſome little diſtance from

ed by King James VI. From the date of this charter to the Revolution 1698, the inhabitants were an induſtrious, enterpriſing and thriving people; ſeveral opulent families now flouriſhing in the country, derive their diſtinction from the induſtry of anceſtors who were merchants and guild brethren of Inverneſs. The principal ſource of their wealth was a commerce in corn and ſkins. The corn and malting trade was brought to a conſiderable height. The greater part of the town conſiſted of kilns and granaries. The export trade was carried on chiefly with France, the northern countries, and Holland. All the home conſumption likewiſe in malt was ſupplied by them, that is of Inverneſs-ſhire, Roſs-ſhire, Sutherland, Caithneſs, the Weſtern Iſles, and the Orkneys; for the art of malt making in theſe days was underſtood in this country chiefly by the corn-merchants of Inverneſs. The ſkin-trade, during the period under conſideration, was ſingly of itſelf a ſource of great wealth. The people of all the extenſive countries and Iſles now mentioned reſorted to Inverneſs, as the only or the moſt convenient market they then knew any thing of. In exchange for ſkins, they were ſupplied, ſome with meal, others malt, and all of them with dye-ſtuffs, ſalt, coarſe linen and iron. From the Revolution to the year 1746, the burgh of Inverneſs ſuffered a gradual decline: So that at that time and ſeveral years after the town appeared little better than the ruins of what it formerly was. In the centre of the town there were many ruinous houſes, and in all the other parts of it, every ſecond ſpace, and that by far the larger, exhibited the ruin of a kiln, a granary or other building. The cauſes of the failure of the corn trade, after

from the town, there is a place called *Pallfaire*, that is 'The Watch Town;' a hill, *Tomnafaire*, 'The Watch Hill;' and a large ſtone, *Clachnafaire*, 'The Watch Stone.' Near this noted ſtone is a ſmall fiſhing village, which is called by its name.

after a duty was granted by Government upon exported corn in the year 1688, are ſo complicated, that an attempt to unfold them on ſuch an occaſion as the preſent might be deemed unneceſſarily tedious. Suffice it to ſay reſpecting the ſkin-trade, that the remote Highlanders and iſlanders by their agents found the way to Glaſgow, which they have long conſidered as the more eligible market. In the year 1746, the town began to revive, and from that period to the preſent, particularly in the laſt thirty years, has been in a rapid progreſs of improvement. At this time it may be ſaid to be wholly new built; its old limits are conſiderably extended, and yearly extending. The money circulated by the army after the ſuppreſſion of the rebellion in the year 1746, the great influx of money from the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, the eſtabliſhment of manufactures, the conſequent improvements in agriculture, the riſe in the value of land, and the conſumption of luxuries, are evidently the cauſes of the increaſing proſperity of this burgh *. The harbour is ſafe and commodious, and kept in excellent repair.

* The town-council of Inverneſs conſiſt of 21 members. They have a clerk and a clerk-depute. The old council every year at the term of Michaelmas elect a new council. The new council elect out of their number, a Provoſt, 4 Bailies, a Dean of Guild and a Treaſurer. The Provoſt however is commonly continued in office for the ſpace of 3 years. The Bailies, the Dean of Guild, and the Treaſurer, for 2 years. There are 6 corporations of craftſmen, *viz.* Hammermen, including ſmiths, tinſmiths, copperſmiths, ſilverſmiths, watchmakers, braziers, cutlers, ſaddlers. 2d, Wrights, including houſe-carpenters, cabinet-makers, wheel-wrights and coopers. 3d, Weavers. 4th, Tailors. 5th, Shoemakers; and 6th, Skinners. Theſe corporations elect annually at Michaelmas, 6 deacons and 6 box-maſters or treaſurers, each corporation its own peculiar deacon and box-maſter. The 6 deacons elect a deacon-convener, to preſide over and to attend to the intereſts of all the corporations. They elect at the ſame time a general boxmaſter. The 6 corporations are repreſented in the town-council by their deacon convener, who by virtue of his office is a member, and by two deacons annually elected by the town-council. There are beſides the above ſeveral other crafts which are not corporate, *viz.* maſons, cart-wrights, bakers, butchers, and barbers.

repair. Seven veſſels belong to it, meaſuring from 400 to 500 tons, and manned by about 30 ſeamen, including apprentices. They are chiefly employed in carrying to London the produce of our manufactures, the fiſh of our river, and ſkins of goat, deer, roe, fox, hares, rabbits, and otter, with other articles. They bring in return materials both for uſe and for luxury. There are 9 boats manned by 6 men each.

Manufactures.—There are 2 tanneries and 1 tawing work in the town. The tanned leather is conſumed at home; but the tawed is ſent to London. Theſe manufactures do not indeed employ many hands, but they are very beneficial to this country. There are 2 tallow-chandlers and 1 ſoap-boiler. Theſe two do much work with few hands. There is a brick work in the neighbourhood of the town. This work is only in its infancy. The duty on the thouſand is a dead weight on this work; 1 s. on the 1000 would raiſe a much greater revenue. A hemp manufacture was eſtabliſhed here above 30 years ago. This buſineſs at preſent employs, in ſpinning, dreſſing and weaving, above 1000 men, women and children. They earn from 1 s. to 10 s. a-week. The hemp is imported from the Baltic, and is manufactured into all kinds of cloth for bags, ſacking and tarpallin, conſumed in Britain, and in the E. and W. Indies. A white and coloured thread manufacture is now eſtabliſhed here about 10 years. This buſineſs employs, in heckling, ſpinning, twiſting, bleaching and dyeing, near 10,000 perſons, including men, women and children. They earn from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. a-week. The company have in this and the neighbouring counties nineteen agents to manage the ſpinning departments. The flax is imported from the Baltic, and when manufactured ſent to London, from whence it is diſperſed over the world. There is on the Neſs an infant bleachfield. It has many advantages, and promiſes to do well.

Academy

Academy and Schools.—The magiſtrates and gentlemen of the town and county of Inverneſs, and many of the gentlemen of the neighbouring counties, have long conſidered an eſtabliſhment of a ſeminary of learning at Inverneſs, on a liberal and extenſive plan, of very great importance to this part of the kingdom. At length, in the year 1787, a committee was appointed to conſider of the moſt proper meaſures for bringing their purpoſe into effect. An extenſive correſpondence was immediately commenced, and ſubſcriptions were opened in Scotland, England, France, America, in the E. and W. Indies. An incloſure of about 3 acres was purchaſed, and an elegant houſe is built in the front of it, conſiſting of a large hall, and ſix ſpacious apartments for claſſes, library, and philoſophical apparatus. The ſubſcriptions at preſent amount to above L. 6277 : 5 : 3 Sterling, and the magiſtrates, beſides their private ſubſcriptions, included in the above, give out of the public revenue of the town yearly to the inſtitution about L. 70 Sterling. The houſe is provided with a rector and 4 maſters. In the 1ſt claſs is taught Engliſh grammatically; in the 2d, Latin and Greek; in the 3d, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping; in the 4th, Euclid's Elements, with their application, plane and ſpherical trigonometry, menſuration of ſolids and ſurfaces in all its parts, geography with the uſe of the globes, navigation with lunar obſervations, architecture, naval, civil and military, practical gunnery, fortification, perſpective and drawing; in the 5th, being the rector's, are taught civil and natural hiſtory, natural philoſophy, chymiſtry and aſtronomy. The ſalaries of the maſters are as follow: The rector, L. 50 and a houſe; the teacher of mathematics, L. 40; the teacher of writing, arithmetic and book-keeping, L. 30; the teacher of Latin and Greek, L. 40; and the teacher of Engliſh, L. 30. The fees for each ſeſſion, are, to the maſter of the 1ſt claſs, or

teacher

teacher of Engliſh, 6s.; to the maſter of the 2d, 12s.; the ſame fees to the maſter of the 3d; the fees to the maſter of the 4th, 1 guinea; and to the maſter of the 5th, 1½ guinea. Over and above theſe fees, there is a ſmall ſum paid by each ſtudent to the rector. The number of ſtudents amounts already to above 200; for this is only the 2d ſeſſion. This inſtitution promiſes to be a very flouriſhing ſeminary. It has every advantage to recommend it. The town is healthful and pleaſantly ſituated, and here are no improper avocations. Board too is very reaſonable, and the maſters are very well qualified for their ſeveral departments, as well as diligent in their attendance. The year is divided into two ſeſſions. The 1ſt to begin from the 16th day of July, and to end on the 20th of December; the 2d to begin on the 5th of January, and to end on the 10th of June. The directors of the academy are, the provoſt, the 4 bailies, the dean of guild, the ſheriff of the county, and the moderator of the preſbytery of Inverneſs, for the time being; ſubſcribers to the amount of L. 50 each, during their lives, and ſubſcribers to the amount of L. 100 for their own lives and their heirs; with 5 gentlemen of the county, annually elected at the Michaelmas head-court. At the deſire of the Highland Society of London, there is a claſs opened for teaching the Gaelic language, with a ſalary from them of L. 15 a-year, to which the directors have added L. 16. There is beſides a proſpect of an addition to the Gaelic teacher's ſalary from the Highland Society of Edinburgh. There is likewiſe a dancing ſchool, and a muſic ſchool well attended. They are under the patronage of the magiſtrates. They are detached from the academy.—There are beſides, in the town and pariſh of Inverneſs, other 10 ſchools; 4 of which are eſtabliſhed by the Society of Scotland for propagating Chriſtian knowledge. In theſe 4, there are no leſs than 230 ſcholars. In the other 6, there are about 200.

Population.

Population.—According to the report made by Dr Webſter, the population then was 9730.

TABLE of BAPTISMS.

Years.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
1690	85	79	164
1710	117	92	209
1730	102	113	215
1750	83	82	165
1770	86	86	172
1780	109	93	202

In the year 1790, there were baptized 130 males, and 124 females, making together 254. There were married 72 couple, and there died 210.

From an actual ſurvey, taken in the ſpring 1791, there were in the town and pariſh,

Married perſons,	2597	Wrights, - -	41
Widows and widowers,	592	Journeymen, -	34
Males above 20, -	368	Apprentices, -	29
Females above 20,	763*	Skinners, - -	12
Males below 20,	1733	Weavers, - -	57
Females below 20,	1877	Journeymen, -	44
Making together,	7930	Apprentices, -	30
Number in the town,	5107	Shoemakers, -	47
Number of families in		Journeymen, -	16
the town and pariſh,	1586	Apprentices, -	15
In the town, hammermen,	28	Tailors, - -	19
Journeymen, -	4	Journeymen, -	13
Apprentices, -	21	Apprentices, -	18

The

* The diſproportion here is owing to the great number of ſervant maids employed in the town from other places.

The above are the 6 corporated trades.—Beſides the above, there are ſeveral other crafts which are not corporate, as maſons and ſlaters, amounting to

Bakers,	34	Phyſicians and ſurgeons,	4
Butchers,	14	Apprentices,	3
Barbers,	23	Clergymen,	4
Perfumers and wigmakers,	6	Brethren of the guild,	70
Apprentices,	8	Sheriffs, depute and ſubſtitute,	2
Gardeners,	13	Writers,	10
Weavers in the hemp manufacture, included in the number employed there,		Meſſengers at arms,	3
		Officers of the cuſtoms,	8
		Officers of exciſe,	8
Millers,	16	Dyers,	12
Farmers,	270		

Poor.—The number of poor at preſent on the roll amounts to 222, of which there are 68 ſtated penſioners, who are ſupplied, ſome of them weekly, and others quarterly. The penſions are from 25 s. each to L. 4 Sterling a-year; but the ſupplies occaſionally given to a diſtreſſed family, frequently exceed the higheſt yearly allowance to a ſtated penſioner. The principal ſtock in the management of the kirk-ſeſſion for the relief of the poor, in lands and bonds, is L. 2520:18:10. This ſtock is made up of legacies, chiefly in the laſt century. Another fund is the weekly collections; they amount, one year with another, to L. 70 Sterling. Beſides theſe, there are two other funds in the truſt of the kirk-ſeſſion: The one a legacy of L. 166:13:4 Sterling, by the laird of Macintoſh, the intereſt of which is applied to the education of two boys at the ſchools of Inverneſs; and the other by Mr George Duncan, late merchant here, in land, yielding L. 200 Scots a-year,

a-year, whereof one half is appropriated towards repairing the churches, and the other to the education of 6 boys, from the age of 10 to 14. The treaſurer is always a reſpectable citizen, generally one of the magiſtrates, and his accounts are examined yearly.

Priſoners in the Tolbooth in 1790, *&c.*—Thirty for horſe-ſtealing; 8 for petty thefts; 4 for threatening expreſſions; 1 for alleged wilful fire-raiſing, but liberated upon inveſtigation; 1 for ſcandal and defamation; 3 for deſerting their apprenticeſhips; a boy for alleged murder, liberated on inveſtigation; 3 for violent aſſaults; 3 for child-murder; 1 for ſelling ſpiritous liquors without a licenſe; 2 women of bad fame, for irregularities and miſdemeanours; 5 men from Campbelltown for breach of the peace; 1 for deſerting his Majeſty's ſervice; 17 for civil debts. In all 52. Several, however, of the above were committed in the years 1787, 1788 and 1789 *.—Houſes built in the laſt 14 years: In the town and pariſh, upwards of 60 of from 2 to 3 ſtories high, and about 70 thatched houſes in the country and ſuburbs; ſome of the thatched houſes are 2 ſtories high.—The public buildings are, the academy, the court-houſe, jail and ſpire, and the houſe built for the northern meeting. The court-houſe is roomy and well lighted, and the acceſs to it eaſy. The jail is ſuch as would give pleaſure to the benevolent Howard. The ſpire was built by the architect of St Andrew's ſpire in Edinburgh, and is ſaid to ſurpaſs it in beauty; the ſlender appearance of St Andrew's ſpire, ariſing from a defect in the proportion, renders it leſs agreeable. The houſe for the northern meeting is a large fabric, in which there is every

* Criminals from the counties of Orkney, Caithneſs, Sutherland, Roſs, Cromarty and Nairn, Moray and Inverneſs, are confined in this jail.

every accommodation to fit it for the purpoſe for which it was erected. The two public rooms are each of them 60 feet long, and 30 broad. One of the rooms is 20 feet high, and the other 18. There was expended on buildings, for public and private uſe, in the town and pariſh of Inverneſs, during the laſt 14 years, no leſs a ſum, at a moderate eſtimation, than L. 50,000.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—There are three miniſters of the Eſtabliſhed Church in Inverneſs. The patrons of the livings are, the King and the Honourable Mr Fraſer of Lovat. The King is patron of the firſt and of the third living, and Mr Fraſer of the ſecond. The ſtipend of the firſt and ſecond miniſters, by a decreet paſſed in the year 1754, is to each 84 bolls 1 firlot 2 pecks 2 lippies victual, half bear half oat-meal, and L. 541 : 8 : 6 Scots money. Each of them has a glebe; but neither of the glebes is 4 acres. They have no manſes, though they are entitled to them by law *. The third miniſter is paid out of the Biſhop's rents of Moray and Roſs. The ſtipend is preciſely L. 108, 10s. Sterling. The church for the Engliſh congregation was built in the year 1772, by the magiſtrates, in conſequence of a compromiſe with the heritors, who were to have a preference of ſeats at an equitable yearly

* In the year 1784, the preſbytery's decreet againſt the magiſtrates and heritors for repairing the two old manſes was ſuſpended at the inſtance of the heritors. A long litigation followed. The ſecond miniſter being an old man, withdrew from the proſecution. The firſt continued to inſiſt, and was found entitled to a reparation of his manſe. But it was alleged on the part of the heritors, that the firſt miniſter was actually in poſſeſſion of the ſecond miniſter's manſe, a manſe with which they had no concern, whatever the magiſtrates might. The miniſter was required to give in a proof of his poſſeſſion of the firſt miniſter's manſe, in which it was judged by the Court he failed. At this ſtage of the buſineſs, tired with a tedious and expenſive litigation, he abandoned the proceſs.

yearly rent. The church is an elegant ſtructure. It is 92 feet long, and 45 broad, with a convenient ſeſſion-houſe adjoined. A new church is now building for the Gaelic congregation, and will be completed in the courſe of next ſummer, at the joint and equal expenſe of the heritors on the one hand, and the Magiſtrates and ſix incorporations on the other. There was likewiſe added a ſum of L. 110 Sterling, being the intereſt ariſing from Mr George Duncan's mortification formerly mentioned. This church is 76 feet in length, and 38 in breadth. There is a ſmall Antiburgher congregation here; but they can afford very little for the ſupport of their miniſter, whether the Aſſociated Congregation add any thing to the living, we know not. There is a Scots Epiſcopal congregation, but ſmall. There is likewiſe a Methodiſt meeting houſe, which is attended chiefly by the manufacturers lately come hither from other places.

Roads and Bridges.—There are 2 military roads which paſs through this pariſh; and which are kept in good repair by Government. The other roads are equally well attended to. The ſtatute-labour is partly commuted. There are 3 bridges, the principal of them is the bridge over the Neſs, a beautiful ſtructure of ſeven arches. It was built in the year 1688. It is a toll-bridge, by act of Parliament, and makes a good addition to the revenue of the town.

Stills, Brewers, Retailers of Ale and Spiritous Liquors.—There are 4 ſtills in the town and pariſh; 12 brewers of ale, 2 of whom are conſiderable, carrying on the buſineſs to a good amount. The retailers of ale and ſpiritous liquors are about 70. Of the lower claſs of people, there are ſome who love whiſky rather much; but not ſo much,

it is believed, as formerly, their inclination begins to change towards ale and beer, a good and wholeſome beverage.

Clubs.—There are two clubs in the town for ſupporting the members which belong to them in ſickneſs and old age, and defraying the funeral expenſes of themſelves and their wives. The firſt is reſtricted to 161 members. Every member pays 30 s. into the box at entrance, 1 s. on the firſt Tueſday of every month throughout the year, 1 s. on the death of every member, and 6 d. on the death of every member's wife. They have in return, when ſick and unable to work, 6 s. a-week during the firſt 6 months of their illneſs, and 4 s. a-week afterward, during their life, while they are unable to work, &c. The other club is formed on much the ſame plan; but pays only half the above ſum at entrance, and the returns in proportion.

Battles.—There were in ancient times ſeveral unimportant rencounters and ſkirmiſhes in this pariſh. The only memorable battle was that of the 16th of April 1746. By a curious coincidence, the important and deciſive battle of Culloden was fought on the moor of the paternal eſtate of that truly great and good man, whoſe influence in the Highlands, and unwearied perſeverance during the two preceding years, made the ſuppreſſion of a very alarming inſurrection comparatively eaſy to Government. The ſervices which, on this critical occaſion, the Lord Preſident Forbes rendered to his country, will be recorded by the faithful hiſtorian of the tranſactions of thoſe times, with pleaſure and the warmeſt gratitude.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The diſtreſſes of the lower claſs of the people, ariſing from the failure of the crop

1782, were very great. No perſon, however, in this pariſh, was known to have died of want, though probably it might have been otherwiſe, had it not been for the liberal and ſeaſonable ſupplies given by Government, and by a very reſpectable native of this pariſh, James Baillie, Eſq; merchant, of London. Mr Baillie's munificence at this ſeaſon of ſore calamity, does him the higheſt honour, and muſt neceſſarily be to him a perpetual ſource of heart-felt pleaſure. A public granary in Inverneſs would be an improvement of very great importance. The Geneva granary, mentioned by the patriotic Lord Gardenſton, in his travelling memorandums, is an excellent model. The great diſadvantage this town and pariſh labours under, is from a ſcarcity of fuel. The moſſes in the neighbourhood are either exhauſted, or incloſed and planted. Peats are bought at a high price, and at the diſtance of 5 miles from the moſt populous part of the pariſh. Much of the ſummer is ſpent in bringing them home. This is a manifeſt detriment to their agriculture. If the coaſting duty on coals were taken off, and a coal-yard kept in the town, to ſupply thoſe who are not able to lay up a ſtore for the winter, agriculture would be greatly benefited, ſeveral manufactures eſtabliſhed, to which the preſent high price of coal is an inſuperable obſtacle, and the labouring poor of this town and pariſh have much leſs cauſe to complain of their condition. A navigable canal, from the weſt ſea at Fort William, to the eaſt ſea at Inverneſs, would no doubt be greatly beneficial to the country at large, but more immediately to a very extenſive tract of the Highlands, which is now covered with ſheep, and almoſt depopulated. Woollen manufactures would ſoon be eſtabliſhed, other manufactures follow of courſe, villages and the chearful haunts of men inſenſibly ariſe, and population in a few years increaſe amazingly, in a diſtrict, which,

alas! at preſent, is dreary to the traveller, filling him with melancholy and dejection of heart.—But however beneficial this canal would ultimately prove to Britain, yet the trade on it can hardly be ſuppoſed to arrive for years to come at that degree of importance, which ought to induce private perſons to ſubſcribe for executing the work. Happily Government looks not in their projects of improvement for immediate returns. The increaſe of the number, and of the induſtry and of the ſkill of the people are their objects. To favour theſe important objects, every exertion ſhould be made. The conſideration of a temporary expenſe, though much more conſiderable than what can be required in the preſent caſe, where indeed nature has left little to be done, will not, we truſt, by ſuch a government as we have the happineſs of living nnder, be put in the balance with great and permanent national advantages.—Many in this town and pariſh complain, and not without cauſe, of multures and pigeon-houſes. The laws reſpecting multures and pigeon-houſes are not founded in equity. They are palpably oppreſſive, and unworthy of even the ſtern ariſtocracy of theſe ignorant and barbarous times in which they were enacted.—The Royal, Britiſh Linen Company, and Aberdeen Banks, have each of them an office at Inverneſs. There are two opinions reſpecting the conſequences of theſe offices in this country. But whether credit ſhall prove an advantage or a diſadvantage to a people, can be determined only by an appeal to their character. If they are compoſed of ſpendthrifts and profligates, nothing can be more evident than that credit will precipitate their ruin; but if, on the contrary, of ſkilful, induſtrious and prudent individuals, it is equally indiſputable, that credit will greatly contribute to accelerate the proſperity of ſuch a people, and to diffuſe happineſs over the whole face of their country.—The

inhabitants

inhabitants of the town and pariſh are decent, and regular in their attendance on the public ordinances of religion. They are well affected to the government of their country, good neighbours, and induſtrious in their ſeveral occupations. Inſtances of diſſipation and profligacy are rare. Their modes and habits of living have undergone, during the laſt 30 years, an alteration greatly to the better. Even the lower farmers and cottagers are by far more induſtrious than they were formerly, more cleanly in their perſons and houſes, and improved conſiderably in their apparel. They make a pleaſing appearance on Sundays. Such as are employed in manufactures, are not only well cloathed, and cleanly in their perſons and houſes, but live more plentifully, and are better and more comfortably lodged than the lower farmers and cottagers. The craftſmen in the town, are, on holidays, it may be ſaid, finely apparelled, and their wives, as far as dreſs is concerned, appear like gentlewomen. Their houſes are clean and neat, and their boards abundantly provided with animal as well as vegetable food. Tea equipages, in their opinion, are now become neceſſary. Many of them, for their ſtation are wealthy. Several build houſes, which yield yearly rents of from L. 20 to L. 30, and others of them purchaſe land to the extent of ſeveral acres, near the town, at high prices, but which, by incloſing and hedging, they turn to good account. The more opulent inhabitants, perhaps hardly ſurpaſs their predeceſſors of the laſt century, in richneſs of dreſs or ſumptuouſneſs of entertainments. But in the elegance of the table, in the diſplay of the ſide-board, in the coſtlineſs of furniture, in the decorations of their houſes, and in the number of apartments thought neceſſary for the accommodation of a family, they are not the ſame people they were 30 years ago. The preſent times are likewiſe diſtinguiſhed by the number of carriages in the

town

town and country pariſh. About 30 years ago, there was only one chaiſe, a four-wheeled one; but at this time, there are 2 coaches, 12 four-wheeled chaiſes, and 1 two-wheeled; 6 of the four-wheeled chaiſes are let for hire by innkeepers. The principal inns in town were indifferent till of late; they are now commodious and comfortable, and, in attendance, entertainment and beds, emulate the beſt inns in the ſouthern parts of the kingdom. There are in the town ſubſcription aſſemblies, and occaſional balls and concerts of muſic. Companies of comedians find their way to Inverneſs, and it is believed they have no cauſe to diſcontinue their viſits, nor is it improbable, that in a few years a theatre will be erected. In the town and country pariſh, we have ſeveral convivial clubs. Their meetings are frequent and ſtated; but they are ſtrangers to the coarſe exceſs of former times, and its unhappy conſequences.

Antiquities.—There was founded at Inverneſs, in the year 1233, by King Alexander II. a convent, not of Franciſcans or Gray Friars, as erroneouſly handed down by oral tradition, (Spottiſwood) but of Dominicans or Black Friars, called alſo, *Fratres prædicatores*, becauſe of their frequent preaching. They were a mendicant order, inſtituted by St Dominic the projector of the Inquiſition *. There were a

* King David II. confirmed to them, decem libras Sterlingorum in dotationem eccleſiæ ſuæ annuatim, percipiendas defirmis dicti burgi, which were given them by his father, 21mo. Octobris anno regni ſui 8vo. His confirmation is dated at Edinburgh 20mo. diei Aprilis anno regni ſui 30mo. This begging fraternity regardleſs of their vow of poverty acquired much property in land in this pariſh and probably elſwhere. Their building ſtood till the interregnum. Cromwell directed a citadel to be built at the mouth of the river. The religious houſes at only a little diſtance, was conſidered as a very convenient quarry. The monaſtery, the church

a few years ago, near the town, due eaſt from it, on the upper plain of the pariſh, ſeveral Druidical temples. At preſent there is only one temple entire. They were blaſted for the purpoſe of building farm houſes and offices. Stones are ſcarce, and at a great diſtance, and the temples ſtood on cultivated and fertile fields. In this, (under the Druidical œconomy,) ſacred portion of the pariſh, there are ſeveral places in the pariſh, called in Engliſh, Drakies, as Eaſter Drakies, Weſter Drakies, Mid Drakies, and in Gaelic, Dregge, both evidently corruptions of Druidhe, the plural of *Drui*, a Druid. Many places in Britain, France and Ireland, ſtill bear the name of the Druids, as Dreux in France, the place of their annual general aſſembly.—There is, at ſome diſtance from the mouth of the river Neſs, a conſiderable way within flood mark, a large cairn of ſtones, the origin of which is of very remote antiquity. It is called Cairnairc, that is, the cairn of the ſea. There is a beacon erected on Cairnairc, to apprize veſſels coming into the river, of danger from it. In the Beauly frith, due weſt from this cairn, there are three cairns at conſiderable diſtances, one from the other. The largeſt is in the middle of the frith, a huge heap of ſtones. This cairn is acceſſible at low water. It appears to have been a burying place, by the urns which were diſcovered in it.

If

church and the chapel were demoliſhed, and the ſingle viſible remain of all the buildings, is the ſhaft of one of the columns which ſupported the roof of the church. The pedeſtal, and it is believed, a great part of the ſhaftare concealed with earth and rubbiſh. The monaſtery yard is become the glebe of one of the miniſters, and the ſite of the church, a ſmall burying place. The chapel yard is the principal burying ground, an incloſure of about 6 acres. This ſpacious yard, the old walls having failed in many places, was incloſed a few years ago with high walls coped with freeſtones. The gate of the incloſure is handſome. The old gate was arched, and the arch crowned with ornaments of the various kinds of vertical dials bore this inſcription, ‘ Concordia parvæ res creſcunt.’

If theſe cairns are ſepulchral monuments, as by the diſcovery of urns they unqueſtionably are, it ſeems difficult not to be convinced, that the ſpace between the mouths of the Neſs and the Beauly, now covered by the Beauly frith, was dry land, and that the ſea gained upon it, after theſe monuments were erected *. The Beauly frith is ſix miles in length, and two in breadth. There was, a few years ago at Kilvean, a great number of ſmall cairns overgrown with heath. They occupied about the ſpace of an acre, on a pretty extenſive plain, and were incloſed by a ditch of an orbicular form †.

Places of Defence.—Oliver Cromwell's fort was mentioned above, ſoon after the Reſtoration it was demoliſhed, and every material of any value ſold to the inhabitants of Inverneſs. Nothing remains of this citadel beſides the interior work of the ramparts, which form a regular pentagon, ſurrounded on four ſides by a ditch, and by the river on the fifth, and incloſing a ſuperficies of preciſely 4 acres. When the ſea flows, the ditch is filled with water. The caſtle near the river, on the weſtern extremity of the hill which

* Lowthorp's abridg. Vol. iii. Edit. 3d. p. 538.

† Theſe cairns in the courſe of the proprietors improvements were removed, but by ignorant perſons who wrought by the piece, and had neither leiſure nor curioſity for obſervation. There are many monuments of this kind ſtill to be ſeen in the Highlands of Scotland; ſeveral cairns from time to time were examined and urns found. The large cairns ſeem to have been the burying places of the chiefs and heads of families, and the ſmall cairns incloſed as above, the burying places of the common people. It appears, that the raiſing of cairns for ſepulchral monuments in honour of diſtinguiſhed perſonages did not ceaſe with the practice of burning the dead in this country. There is a very large cairn near the river at the foot of a hill, called Torvean. It ſome years ago was partly removed, a coffin was found compoſed of ſix thick flags. This is ſuppoſed to be the dormitory of Bean, a ſaint of the Culdee order, from whom the place and hill derive their names.

which covers the town, was deſtroyed during the Rebellion 1745, together with the contiguous barracks. Nothing now remains of either but rubbiſh. This was an irregular fortification, and conſequently of little ſtrength after the invention of gunpowder and ordnance. The caſtle is ſuppoſed to have been built by King Malcolm Canmore. The barracks, with ſlender ramparts, were erected in the laſt reign. The Thane of Calder's caſtle was built on the eaſtern extremity of the hill. It was razed to the ground by Malcolm, in deteſtation of the murderer of his father, and unjuſt poſſeſſor of his kingdom for ſeventeen years. There is not a veſtige of this caſtle to be ſeen, *Seges, ubi Troia fuit.* Fragments of bricks at times are turned up by the plough. The remembrance of the theatre of Macbeth's ambitious villany, however, is preſerved in the old charter names of the lands which belonged to it. A family likewiſe of conſiderable antiquity, the Cuthberts of Caſtlehill, derive their deſignation from the ſite of Macbeth's caſtle. Though this family is here only incidentally mentioned, there may perhaps be no great impropriety in remarking, that Colbert, the prime miniſter of Lewis XIV. was a cadet of it, that his illuſtrious deſcendents recogniſed, and ſtill recogniſe, their origin in the family, that ſons of it ranked high in the church and armies of France, and that the biſhop of Rodez, is brother to Lewis Cuthbert, Eſq; Provoſt Marſhal of Jamaica, the repreſentative of the family. There was, on the eſtate of Culduthill, at the diſtance of ſomewhat more than a mile from Inverneſs, an old caſtle, no trace of it now appears but the ditch with which it was fortified, and ſome rubbiſh of ſlime and ſmall ſtones. Tradition gives this caſtle to the Cummings *.—The vitrified

* The name it bears, however, would be more ſuitable to a convent of Monks, than to a caſtle of that once powerful and ſplendid family.

It

fort, on the ſummit of Craig-Phatric, near Inverneſs, is a very remarkable ſtructure. It has attracted the notice of the antiquary. There are different opinions reſpecting its origin. Some maintain, that the vitrification is the effect of a volcano, others the work of art; but Mr Fraſer Tytler, who treated this ſubject in the ſecond volume of the Tranſactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, endeavours to prove, that the vitrification is the reſult merely of accident, the ruin of an ancient fort deſtroyed by fire. Of old, ſtructures for habitation and defence, according to Mr Fraſer Tytler, were compoſed of two parrallel rows of ſtrong palliſadoes, at the diſtance of ſome feet from each other, cloſely interwoven with boughs, and of earth, ſtones of various ſizes, boughs and trunks of trees filling the intermediate ſpace. The Riempiuta hypotheſis is ingenious. Some, however, by this hypotheſis, may find it difficult to account for the prodigious mounds of vitrified matter on the eaſt ſide of the rock. An attentive examination of the vitrified work, is not favourable to the abettors of the volcanic hypotheſis, who maintain, that the ramparts were built with lava, a material,

It is called in Engliſh, Caſtle Bathers, a corruption of the Gaelic name, Caiſtal nan leoirach, that is the caſtle of "the recluſe or retired," a monaſtery in Gaelic is indifferently termed Manachinn, the reſidence of the Monks, or Leoirnamanach, the retreat or retirement of the Monks. In Lochneſs at the north end of it, there is on a ſmall iſland the ruin of an old building called Caſtle Spiritin, evidently a corruption of Spairtin, that is "the water daſhed caſtle," Spairt, ſignifies a "daſh or ſplaſh of water," Spairtin, "daſhes of water." The proprietor ſays, that about 200 years ago this caſtle was the manſion-houſe of his family, and yet no account can be given of its origin, but from conjecture. According to ſome it was a royal Pictiſh caſtle, and the ſcene of King Brudius's converſion to the Chriſtian faith, Adamnan in his Hiſtory of St Columba relating that this important event was accompliſhed by the ſaint in a royal ſeat near Inverneſs. But according to others, this little caſtle is of a far leſs ancient date. It was, they ſay, an appendage of the ſuperb ſeven towered caſtle of Urquhart, univerſally aſcribed to the great family of the Cummings.

material, with which, according to them, the rock abounded, and of more eaſy acquiſition than ſtones. In the Philoſophical Tranſactions for the year 1777, part ii. No 20. the Secretary ſays, "Specimens of the burnt matter of Craig-Phatric, near Inverneſs, had been well examined by ſome of the members well acquainted with volcanic productions, and had been by them judged to be real lava." How ſtrong and reſpectable ſoever, the authority of this judgment may appear, it can have no force with thoſe who have been upon the rock, and examined with attention the ramparts, which are compoſed, not of individual blocks, but of continued, extenſive and unbroken maſſes. The ramparts exhibit evident proofs of their having undergone the proceſs of vitrification, on the very foundations which they at preſent occupy, and conſequently are not volcanic productions *.

* In many of the Higland hills, there are great quantities of vitrified matter. It is ſeen collected into ſmall heaps. There is in ſome places only one heap, in others there are two, but not above three in any place together. This matter is in great abundance on the hills of Eyſick and Borlum belonging to the pariſhes of Inverneſs and Dores. Round each of the heaps there is a circle of grit, evidently fragments of the virtified matter worn down by time and the weather. On this circle no plant is obſerved to vegetate. A ſmall tenant on the hill of Borlum upon his coming into his little uncultivated poſſeſſion, choſe a ſpot for a garden on which there were two heaps of the vitrified matter, he removed them, but deemed his labour loſt for during a reſidence of ſeveral years, no plant would grow where they ſtood. Theſe vitrifications are curious. We unqueſtionably are much in the dark reſpecting the hiſtory of the ancient inhabitants of this country and their arts.—There is at the diſtance of 2 miles ſouth from Inverneſs, not far from the military road, and on the weſt ſide of it, the ruin of a large ſtructure. It was raiſed on an eminence of about 30 feet above the ſurrounding plain. There are no traces of the form of this ſtructure. It was one of the many ancient buildings which according to ſome were erected before the date or the knowledge of mortar and iron in this country, as no veſtige of the hammer or of any kind of cement appears. Hundreds of loads of the ſtones of this ruin were lately carried to Inverneſs.

END OF VOLUME NINTH.

APPENDIX.

Containing Additional Information with reſpect to ſome Pariſh Accounts printed in former Volumes.

No. XXXV. KELLS. Vol. IV. p. 259.

Communicated by the Rev. Mr GILLESPIE, *Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

KENMORE CASTLE, the ſeat of the Honourable John Gordon of Kenmore, is beautifully and romantically ſituated at the head of Loch Ken, half a mile ſouth of the burgh of New Galloway. It ſtands on a circular mount, partly natural, and partly artificial. It has been ſurrounded by a foſſe ſupplied with water from the Ken, with which it has had a communication, but now dry and filled up with earth. When, or by whom this caſtle was built, is uncertain. It is ſaid to have been the ſeat of the *Gelaſi Reguli*, or rulers of Galloway; and afterward of John Baliol, lord of Galloway, and king of Scotland. It ſuffered from the ravages of war, and was twice burnt down; firſt in the reign of the unfortunate Queen Mary, and again in the days of Cromwell. A great part of it has been ſince

ſince repaired, and is now fitted up in an elegant ſtyle by the preſent proprietor; and though the outworks are moſtly thrown down, and part of the walls ſtand naked and unroofed, it ſtill retains much of its ancient grandeur, and will always be admired for the extent and ſtrength of its building, and beauty of its ſituation, which is allowed to be one of the fineſt in the ſouth of Scotland. Here is an excellent library, conſiſting of ſeveral thouſand volumes, and which has been greatly augmented and enriched by Mr Gordon the preſent proprietor.

The following tradition, omitted in my ſtatiſtical account of Kells, comes with ſo many circumſtances of probability, that I am convinced it muſt have had ſome foundation in fact. The ſcene indeed is in the Kells, but the reſt of the hiſtory belongs to the pariſh of Minnigaff, and will perhaps be mentioned in the ſtatiſtical account of that pariſh. It is as follows: There is a large flat of moſs lying along the Dee, on the weſt ſide of this pariſh, called Moſs Raplock, there a battle is ſaid to have been gained by Robert Bruce, over the Engliſh, who poſſeſſed a ſtrong fort at Craigoncalzie, 2 miles weſt of this moſs. This is confirmed by the following circumſtances: Several pieces of ſpears, and other warlike inſtruments have been dug out of this moſs, and a large ſtone ſtands in the midſt of it, called the King's Seal. And it is ſaid he had an eaſy victory, owing to the following ſtratagem: Three young men, the ſons of a widow woman, by 3 different huſbands, who had been very active in the ſervice of the king, collected a great number of goats and deer, and on the day of the battle drove them to the top of a high hill over-againſt the Engliſh army, who miſtaking them (with their branchy horns ſtanding up like ſpears,) for another army coming to attack them, were intimidated, and fled with precipitation, and ſoon after abandoned the ſtrong fort of Craigoncalzie, where Bruce

Bruce took up his reſidence, and where there is ſtill an old building called Bruce's Walls. Soon after the battle, he viſited the mother of theſe young men who had done him ſuch ſignal ſervice, and ſhe requeſted as a reward, all the lands lying between the burns of Penkill and Pilneur, an extent of country 10 miles long and 5 miles broad, lying in the pariſh of Minnigaff, and which he readily granted them, and which continued the property of men of the name of Murdoch, Mackie, and Maclurg, till within the memory of ſome men ſtill living. Their deſcendants are ſtill farmers in that neighbourhood, where they ſay their anceſtors have dwelt near 300 years.

Some think this to be the battle mentioned by Buchanan, as fought by king Robert Bruce near the river Cree, which he might eaſily have miſtaken for the Dee; but this is the leſs probable, as there is the veſtige of a battle fought near Machre moſs, on the ſide of the river Cree, which is ſaid to have been gained by Robert Bruce over the Engliſh, of which mention will probably be made in the ſtatiſtical account of Minnigaff.

I alſo omitted in my account, to mention the veſtiges of a wall or ſtone dike running from S. to N. 10 miles through this pariſh; yet it is ſaid to begin at the ſea, and to run N. through Girthon, Kells, and Carſphairn, into the ſhire of Ayr, upwards of 30 miles. This wall has no doubt been a limit between two chiefs, but who theſe chiefs were, or when this wall was built, which is now in ruins, tradition does not ſay.

Another fact come to my knowledge, is, that Mr Gordon, tranſlator of Tacitus, and author of the Independent Whig, &c. was a cadet of the family of Kenmore, and born in this pariſh of Kells, and not at Shermers in the pariſh of Balmaclellan, as mentioned by Mr Thomſon in his ſtatiſtical account of that pariſh.

No. XXVIII. DALMENY. Vol. I. p. 227.

Communicated by the Rev. Dr Robertson, *Miniſter of that Pariſh.*

THE STORM,

A Poem, by Dr Wilkie, Author of the Epigoniad, &c. and compoſed before he was 10 years old, while at the School of Dalmeny.

What penetrating mind can rightly form
A faint idea of a raging ſtorm?
Who can expreſs of elements the war;
And noiſy thunder roaring from afar?
This ſubject is ſuperior to my ſkill;
Yet I'll begin to ſhow I want not will.

A pitchy cloud diſplays itſelf on high;
And with its ſable mantle veils the ſky:
Fraught with the magazine of heaven does throw
Bolts barb'd with fire upon the world below.
All nature ſhakes and the whole heavens ſmoke;
Nor can the groſs black cloud ſuſtain the ſhock:
But op'ning from its magazines doth roll,
Thick ſmoke and flames of fire from pole to pole.
Thence hail, ſnow, vapour, mixed with flames of fire,
With conjunct force againſt the earth conſpire.
Monſters of ſea and land, do loudly roar,
And make the deep reſound from ſhore to ſhore.
The ſpumy waves come rolling from afar
And with loud jars declare the wat'ry war.
They upward mount and raiſe their creſts on high,
And beat the middle regions of the ſky.
Downwards they fall upon the ſwelling deep,
And toſs the rigging of ſome low ſunk ſhip:
Upwards they tow'r and falling down again,
They bury men and cargo in the main.
The boiling deep doth from her low ſunk cell
Throw out black waves reſembling thoſe of Hell.
They forward roll and hideouſly do roar,
And vent their rage againſt the rocky ſhore.

[*Anno* 1731.]